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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS:	Court, Official, and Personal News.....	675
The End of Compulsory Church-rates.....	Postscript.....	675
Eccliaistical Notes.....	LEADING ARTICLES:	
The Broad Church	Summary.....	676
Theory of a State Church.....	The Battle against Bribery.....	676
The Irish Church.....	Labour Laws.....	677
The Bishops on the Irish Church.....	The General Election.....	677
Convocation.....	Colleges and Schools.....	678
Mr. Spurgeon and the Bishop of Oxford.....	Foreign and Colonial Election Intelligence.....	679
Religious and Denominational News.....	Longfellow in England.....	682
CORRESPONDENCE:	Miscellaneous.....	683
Denial of the Supernatural in the Church.....	LITERATURE:	
Testotallers and the Coming Election.....	Alexander Smith's "Last Leaves".....	683
Parliamentary Intelligence.....	The Magazines.....	683
The Rescued Prisoners from Abyssinia.....	Brief Notices.....	683
	Gleanings.....	684
	Births, Marriages, and Deaths.....	684
	Markets.....	685
	Bank of England.....	685

Eccliaistical Affairs.

THE END OF COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATES.

THE long controversy on the question of Church-rates is so near its close that we may safely regard it as among the things that have passed away. The proceedings in the House of Lords on Friday evening give assurance that compulsion, applied to ecclesiastical objects, will soon cease to be sanctioned by law. The effect of the changes made in Mr. Gladstone's Bill by the Select Committee has already been pointed out in these columns. Its principle has been scrupulously preserved—at least, with a single exception, relating to trustees and corporate bodies, which, we trust, will be struck out by the House of Commons. In all other respects, we think the measure has been simplified, and, if we may use the word, liberalised. The clauses which provide for the raising and expenditure of the wherewithal to defray in Churches what Dissenters are accustomed to call "incidental expenses" are framed in a less timorous and mistrusting spirit than in the Bill sent up to their Lordships by the lower House. In a word, we think it must be admitted that in giving up the contest the Lords have wisely and gracefully determined to make the requisite arrangements for legalising the voluntary principle, in lieu of the compulsory principle, in the Established Church, as little invidious as possible, and have thereby earned the marked disapprobation of Lords Derby and Salisbury and the Bishop of Oxford. On the whole, the problem as to how the rate, as a demand enforceable by law, might be surrendered, while the machinery for making and spending it is retained, has been solved by the Lords in the least objectionable manner.

We have no intention of reviewing the course of this controversy through upwards of thirty years. It has been marked, as most of our readers know, by strange vicissitudes, and has given occasion to various stirring, if not startling, episodes. Few of the statesmen of the day have not, at some time or other, pursued a line of action respecting it which they and we would gladly forget. In the hour of success, it would ill become the victors to open old sores. Let bygones be bygones. The irritated feelings excited by the movement which ends at length in general concord, were among the worst evils of the now abolished system. We have no wish to prolong them. We care not to raise a

single note of triumph. We shall not analyse motives on either side, nor predict consequences, nor indulge in indirectly censorious reflections. We rejoice heartily, it is true, in the termination of this protracted struggle; but we do not rejoice because men who took a view opposite to our own are finally beaten, but because a great, and, as we hold, a sacred principle touching the economy of the Christian Church is at last recognised by the British Legislature.

We avail ourselves of the present occasion, however, to express our confident conviction that "a policy of greater generosity" of which the Archbishop of York avowed himself in favour, will be generously responded to just in proportion to the extent to which it is trusted. Coercion is clean gone for ever, as far as relates to the objects for which Church-rates are ordinarily levied—voluntary effort, conducted in legal form, is about to take its place. If we might presume to offer a word of suggestion in the matter, or to place the teachings of actual and lengthened experience at the service of many who will be novices in making an appeal to Christian willinghood, we should exhort them not to attempt patching the old cloak with new cloth, or putting new wine into old bottles, if they would save themselves from disappointment. Of one thing we are morally certain—that the response of Dissenters to the action of Churchmen will be gratifying to the latter to the fullest extent that confidence in the former is exhibited. There will be no interference with the administration of essentially Church trusts, where there is no attempted interference with Dissenting rights of freedom. If social pressure is resorted to, in place of legal compulsion, to extort pecuniary support for the Church, we are quite sure that the Church will be the loser, not only in peace, but in contributions. Let the will of those who worship elsewhere than at the Established Church be left perfectly free—let their better sympathies be addressed, and not their fears—let them be approached as men who have the right to say "Aye" or "No" in respect to any question submitted to them—and we will answer for it that the result will be in every respect more promising than can be looked for from any display of the old mandatory spirit. The leaders of thought, both in Parliament and in the press, would do well to inculcate the force of gentleness in the matter—and by their example and influence to discourage to the utmost any substitution of social for legal coercion. Voluntaryism is always most efficient when most at liberty—and the advantages of voluntaryism are never fully realised when means are used to stimulate it which are foreign to its nature.

There are some among our own friends who will view with some regret the final adjustment of this much controverted question—not because they have any pleasure in parochial strife, but because the vestry was looked upon as the only place in which, and the laying of a Church-rate the only occasion on which, the principle of Church Establishments could be practically discussed in this country. That may have been the case once, but it is so no longer. The larger question does not need to be kept alive in the minds of men by local irritants. It has been removed to a higher sphere. For ourselves we are very glad of it. It is really a question of national policy, and can be best and most profitably discussed in the national Legislature.

There can be no doubt that Church-rate contests, necessary as they were, excited much ill-blood between neighbour and neighbour, and exacerbated differences of religious opinion which might otherwise have been maintained without personal bitterness. Indeed, there was nothing to be compared with them for aptness to set people together by the ears. The consequence was that every great ecclesiastical question was enveloped in the clouds of dust raised by party passion—and a clear view of truth from either side was made well-nigh impossible. A guerilla warfare is generally more ferocious than warfare carried on between organised and disciplined armies. We are not by any means sorry that henceforth the clash of arms will no more necessarily rouse ecclesiastical animosities in the parishes. A great fight is before us, we know—one that will test endurance, courage, and self-restraint on both sides. But, at least, it will not be an ever-recurring worry, nor need it in the slightest degree curdle the temper of neighbours towards one another. This in itself is an inestimable gain to the cause of Truth, with whomsoever it may be identified.

It is certainly a curious coincidence that the compulsory Church-rate system has been kept up as long as it could be made to serve any useful purpose. If it had been gracefully surrendered ten years ago, there is no saying how it might have fared with any attempt to agitate the larger question of Establishments. The persevering zeal of the Liberation Society would have been sorely tried by the languor of Dissenting communities, and by a generally diffused feeling that it were wise to "let well alone." No doubt, it would have surmounted the difficulty, but it would have required much time, severe labour, and not a little additional obloquy, to have lifted the controversy into the region of Parliamentary discussion. The help of the Church-rate question—thanks to the unyielding tenacity of its friends—is no longer needed. The controversy will pass into history, but not before that of which it was but a herald, has reached a stage of advance from which there can be no retreat. Let us now hope that with the disappearance of local strife, there will be a disappearance also of personal animosities and party bitterness. The issue between the friends and opponents of Church Establishments is a mighty one, and is fraught with consequences of incalculable moment. Why should it not be coolly and kindly, as well as gravely and earnestly discussed? No intensity of passion will assist the nation to a wise decision, though it may precipitate events for which none of us is prepared. That there have been faults of temper on both sides in the long struggle which is just terminating, both sides will probably, in the review of it, admit. We have now entered upon a much more important contest—let us see to it that it be carried to its conclusion in the assured belief that charity and courtesy are great moral forces, and that "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE debate, last Wednesday, upon the Oxford and Cambridge Universities Bill, was one of the most thorough, as regards the discussion of the real points that are at issue, of any that has taken place since this question has been before the House of Commons. It is nearly always the case that when a

great political question gravitates towards a practical settlement, men discuss with greater closeness the ultimate principles that are involved in their respective arguments. This was the case last Wednesday, when the Church party, especially, put forth, probably for the last time, their whole intellectual strength. It was not much, yet it was fairly representative of some of the most honest thought in the Established Church. Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Newdegate, are capable of adequately stating the case in favour of the Church. But what was most striking in their arguments was the manner in which they deprecated any immediate settlement of the question. Mr. Hope asked that the Universities might be allowed time to make satisfactory arrangements for themselves; Mr. Bentinck promised that as a great deal had been, so a great deal would continue to be done, to render access to the Universities easy to Dissenters; and Mr. Hardy also pointed to the "self-reforms" which had been made. It is true that none of the speakers intimated that the precise reforms now aimed at would be given, and indeed Mr. Hardy drew upon his ardent yet sincere enough imagination for a picture of the "soulless and godless" things that the Universities would become if the present tests were abolished. But the line of argument adopted as a whole in this debate gave token that the position now held is to be surrendered. When men ask only for time to do a thing, they have clearly arrived at the conviction that if they do not do it, other persons will. We gather that the Universities question is now virtually won, and that it will scarcely stand another debate in the House of Commons. Great service was rendered to the Nonconformists last week by those who spoke in favour of their rights. Amongst these are Mr. Grant Duff, Mr. Melly, and Mr. Leatham; of Mr. Coleridge we need not speak. We are especially glad that a member who is himself a Nonconformist—Mr. Melly—should have been found to be so capable of putting, in a broad and unsectarian way, the argument from the Nonconformist point of view. Mr. Melly and Mr. Winterbotham are two of the most valuable of recent additions to the debating power of the House. So far as Nonconformists are concerned, they have not made their appearance before they were needed.

What is to become of Convocation? and when will that reverend but antique body cease to discuss the Colenso case? Had we not known of the frequent, if not general, absence of practical sagacity amongst clergymen, we should have been surprised at this question being once more raised. For what can Convocation do? It can vote, but who cares for its votes? They have neither moral nor legal weight. How many times have they voted against the abolition of Church-rates; what long resolutions and lengthy memorials they have passed upon that subject must be yet fresh in the memory of the reader. And what has it all ended in? What can be the end of the Colenso debates? All the bishops and clergy of both Houses can do nothing. They cannot oust the Bishop of Natal, and they cannot, in the face of the highest legal authority in the land, prove their co-chief-pastor to be a heretic. There was more of a practical nature in the debates on the Irish Church, which, however, were chiefly remarkable, not for what was done, but for what was not done. Excepting from feelings of personal regard, we are not at all sorry to see that Dean Stanley took the position that he did. It is just as well, and in fact it is better, to have the indiscriminate-endowment theory urged with force and put before the people in its most attractive shape and with the most attractive eloquence at once. The sooner that it is fully discussed the better, for the sooner then will it be rejected. But it is no argument to say that disendowment will be found to be "almost impossible." If it be almost impossible, why expend such force of argument against it? But such little support did the Dean's proposals for the endowment of Roman Catholicism receive, that one might have imagined them to have been proposals for the endowment of Protestant Dissent. The Dean withdrew his resolutions, and with them we have probably heard the last words in Convocation in favour of Comprehension. Perhaps we have also had the last speeches in favour of an Established Church in Ireland, and we must say, that if they were the last they were remarkably below the occasion.

The report of the Irish Church Commissioners does not make its appearance, and it would seem that the oftener the Commissioners meet the greater is to be the delay. A fortnight ago we were told in the House of Commons that only two more meetings would be necessary, and since then we have counted four. It is now pretty generally known that the report will not make its appearance until after Parliament is dissolved. We do not know, and there-

fore do not say, whether this delay is intentional or not; but it will of course be an apparent convenience to the Irish Church that the proposals of the Commissioners should not be in any way discussed by the present Parliament. It is understood that the Commissioners will make no recommendations as to the appropriation of the annual sum of £200,000 which the adoption of their proposals would leave the Legislature to deal with.

It was no doubt a clever speech which the Bishop of Oxford made on the Irish Church. His lordship is the Friar Tuck of the Episcopal Bench, and can, at one and the same time, deal hard blows and say good-humoured things with the most malevolent intentions. Of course he knew that his two quotations from Mr. Spurgeon would not bear examination, but they answered well in what was undoubtedly a clever *ad captandum* address. Mr. Spurgeon has made a proper, and at the same time a dignified reply. We doubt, however, if any one admired "the logic" of the Bishop's speech, and probably his lordship was the first to laugh in his sleeve at his illustrations—and the capacious lawn sleeves of an English Bishop will conceal a very immoderate amount of laughter.

Dr. Maziere Brady has vindicated the accuracy of Mr. Gladstone's statements respecting some Irish benefices against the charges of Lord Cairns. Who is it that charges themselves with priming church defenders upon statistical questions? They are, or will be, an unhappy set of people—something like those who used to prime Mr. Walpole and others about the five per cent. of non-Church-rate parishes. For when men base their defence of an institution upon remarkably bad figures, and those figures come to be proved remarkably bad, what is likely to become of the institution? We cannot reprint Dr. Brady's vindication, but we advise our readers of it, and no doubt it can be procured in the proper quarter.

There is actually a quarrel over the religion in which King Theodore's son is to be educated. It appears that the gentleman to whom he is entrusted is—horror of horrors—a Presbyterian. The Vicar of Kildare, Mr. Crosthwaite, therefore writes to the *Clerical Journal* :—

If England commits the son of King Theodore to the religious training of Presbyterians, she will deny the importance of an article of the Nicene Creed, she will identify herself with heresy, and she will lower, as far as a Government can, the character of our Church before the world. It is a curious way of preparing a young prince to be the reformer of his Church, to bring him up in the denial of one of the only truths which his corrupted Church still holds. It is a very ingenious way of placing him in the wrong, whenever he may return to his Church and country. He will bring many new things before the Abyssinian Church; but the chance of its adopting them must be nullified by his presenting in company with a denial of the teaching of the Church Catholic from the beginning, viz., an article embodied in our Creeds, that every infant is in baptism "made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven."

Mr. Crosthwaite is so evidently and so feelingly in earnest, that we decline to ridicule him. To quote his letter is, we imagine, quite enough.

THE BROAD CHURCH THEORY OF A STATE CHURCH.

TO ARTHUR PENRYN STANLEY, D.D., DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

LETTER V.

Sir,—The first of the "General Advantages" resulting from a connection of Church and State, which you specify, is entitled, "Supremacy of Law." It is difficult to catch your meaning in the discussion of this topic, on account of your having confounded the Supremacy of Law in relation to all the subjects of the realm, with the Supremacy of Law in relation only to the interests of the Church of England. When you say: "There is, first, the security that it gives for the supremacy of equal law in the most important of human interests";* the sentence is naturally applied to that equality of law which treats men of all religious professions alike; but, then, the word *it* in the sentence being expressive of the headship of the State over the Church, the equality of law becomes confined to the similar treatment of persons within the ecclesiastical pale. Your illustrations relate partly to one of these things, and partly to the other. When you commend "the principle of the Constitutions of Clarendon,"† it is the enforcement of law upon both clergy and laity, which you contemplate; but when you reprobate the discipline of Calvin;‡ you contemplate the enforcement by law of Church censures. The interest, in the former case, is a national one; but it is an ecclesiastical one in the latter. What you thus confuse, I must carefully distinguish; and my present letter

* Stanley's Address, p. 13.
† Stanley's Address, p. 13.
‡ Stanley's Address, p. 14.

will be devoted to the consideration of that Supremacy of Law which has respect to the whole civil community over which the State presides. Is the connection of Church and State favourable to "the just and equal administration of law to all classes"?* That is the question with which we are now concerned. It divides itself into two parts—Does the just and equal administration of law depend upon the connection of Church and State?—Can the connection of Church and State be reconciled with the just and equal administration of law?

I ask then—Does the just and equal administration of law depend upon the connection of Church and State? Certainly not. You bring forward the case of Gallio. Gallio has always been a favourite of mine; and, though I do not recognise the "burst of admiration" of which you speak, I quote, with general approbation, your account of his proceeding:—

The chief example of a judge on religious matters, whom St. Paul and St. Luke hold up to us as a model of impartial justice, but whose name with ecclesiastical zealots has by a strange mistake of interpretation become a term of reproach, is the proconsul Gallio. "He cared for none of these things," says the author of the Acts, with a genuine burst of admiration, as he records his noble indifference to the popular clamour of the Jews at his judgment seat.†

What were the things for which he did not care? They were emphatically religious things—questions of "words and names," and of the Jewish "law." These he excluded from his judgment, confining himself to matters "of wrong or wicked lewdness."‡ In doing so, he accurately marked out the province of the magistrate's jurisdiction, as I have already endeavoured to explain it. He properly regarded the justice he was ready to extend to all, as having nothing to do with religious differences; and I have no doubt, as you say, that—

Had the course of law, as it might easily have done, led him not to dismiss the complaints, but to go into them at length, it would still have been with the same calm and dispassionate serenity which so well became the blameless brother of Seneca, and the magistrate whom St. Paul calls, "God's minister to him for good," "a terror not to the good" works of faith and love, "but to the evil spirit" of fanaticism and oppression.§

What do we gather from this, but that the equality appropriate to the law is independent of that religious interference with which the connection of Church and State has to do? You thus again introduce Scripture precedent in relation to the question before us.

When Cardinal Wiseman taunted the Church of England with having appealed from the High Priest's Hall to the Hall of Cæsar, he might have remembered that this was exactly the course gladly pursued by the Apostle Paul before Festus, and that the judgment seat of Pilate, the Roman magistrate, was the one opening escape from the dark and iniquitous judgment of the high priest, Caiaphas.||

Paul's appeal to Cæsar, as Milton says, "was to judge his innocence, not his religion;"¶ and the opening of escape which Pilate provided for Christ, was that he found in him no civil fault. The taunt of Cardinal Wiseman was not directed against anything of this sort. The Hall of Cæsar had, according to him, usurped the functions of the Hall of the High Priest, presuming to decide questions which did not rightly belong to it. The State by its own act connected the property in dispute with religion, and thus made itself responsible for the rights of the religion as well as for the rights of the property. You truly observe:—

No question of interpretation of doctrine in regard to property can arise in any religious body in England which may not eventually be brought before a tribunal of this nature for settlement.**

Whether any religious body ought to connect its property with interpretations of doctrine, and whether the law ought to sanction such connections in opposition to the will of the possessors of the property for the time being, are points about which we should probably differ. I should, in both instances, take the negative side of the argument; while fully acquiescing in the principle of that civil intrusion to which all religious bodies are liable. Under the circumstances to which you refer, however, it is because of the value of the property involved, and not because of the character of the religion connected with it, that the intrusion is justifiable; and the legal decision would proceed upon the same impartial rules which apply to property given for secular purposes. It is the object of a just law to secure that impartiality, and this can be done without the slightest reference to ecclesiastical recognition and control. There is another passage in your address which it may be profitable to notice on this part of our subject:—

The beneficial changes which have been made in the

* Stanley's Address, p. 14.

† Stanley's Address, p. 14.

‡ Acts xviii. 14, 15.

§ Stanley's Address, p. 14.

|| Stanley's Address, p. 16.

¶ Milton's Treatise of Civil Power in Ecclesiastical Causes.

** Stanley's Address, p. 16.

ecclesiastical regulations of England—those which are the most precious to the Nonconformists—and which are clearly recognised to be good, even by those who at the time most resisted them, were all effected by the Legislature—that is, not by the clergy alone, or by the Dissenters alone, sometimes against the advice of both or of each, but by the joint effort of the whole Christian community—the Toleration Act, the abolition of the Slave Trade, the Test and Corporation Act, the Roman Catholic Relief Act, the Church Reform Acts, the Relaxation of Subscription.*

All I have at present to do with, is, whether these changes arose, in any way, from the connection of Church and State. The last two things—the Church Reform Acts, and the Relaxation of Subscription—relate to the Church alone; but of the rest, which relate to the interests of the nation, I say that the beneficial legislation touching them, if effected by the joint effort of the whole Christian community, was so effected by that community in its political capacity, as distinct from the use of any organisation for religious purposes which the State had provided. Turn the matter how we may, we are met by the one conclusion, that the supremacy of law, in its even-handed application, belongs entirely to the civil, and not in any degree to the ecclesiastical portion of our constitution.

Can the connection of Church and State be reconciled with the just and equal administration of law? In answering this question, we must call to mind how that connection has affected this administration in past times. To it we have to attribute the Act of Uniformity, the unjust restrictions of the old Toleration Act, the Test and Corporation Acts, the Catholic Disabilities, and the Imposition of Church-rates. These things have all been amended, but they present themselves to us as the natural effect of a religious Establishment, when that Establishment pursued its course comparatively unchecked. There remain at the present time inequalities in our legislation, of the same kind, and arising from the same cause. The right of bishops to sit in the House of Lords, the appropriation of national property to Church purposes, the religious limitation of University privileges, the prohibition of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, all proceed, more or less directly, from the ecclesiastical element which has been infused into legal arrangements. These things, it is true, admit of beneficial change, but the change must be striven for in opposition to existing Church influences. There is another class of legislative acts which must be mentioned, though it refers to the condition of the clergy themselves rather than to the common claims of the people. There are immunities possessed by the clergy of which other citizens do not partake. They have separate courts for the decision of their peculiar affairs: they receive appointments to valuable offices, to which persons of their order alone are entitled: they are exempted, in certain circumstances, from legal processes to which others are liable. On the other hand, they are under the bondage of special restraints. They are excluded from the House of Commons: they cannot follow any secular trade or calling: their occupation of land is circumscribed: their theological belief and their method of worship are prescribed for them. These things are of importance chiefly to themselves, but they are quite inconsistent with the idea of their being dealt with by the law as other subjects of the realm are. I have alluded to these particulars as they have suggested themselves to my memory, and I have no doubt that a formal investigation would add to them, but they alone are amply sufficient to prove my point. The supremacy of Law, as impartially applied to all classes of the community, is seriously and extensively interfered with by the connection of Church and State; which thus puts forward one department of national interests, and one body of persons attached to them in a position of favourable regard and special provision denied to other interests and other persons standing in the same relation to the Government. Is it possible for us to conceive of an Established Church without some invasion of those rights which ought to be common to all the inhabitants of the country? I am unable to form such a conception. When I set clearly before myself what the equality of rights, of which I am speaking means, and follow that meaning into its practical applications, all that is distinctive of an Establishment vanishes away. But I do not feel myself under any necessity of doing this in the present instance. I am not bound to look beyond the terms of your definition in estimating the possible relations of a State Church to the law. Nothing can be plainer than that the connection of Church and State which you advocate, does not admit of a fair adjustment of the legal claims of the whole community. As long as recognition and support, control and guidance have any significance at all, some injustice of the nature I am pointing out, must be committed; and

as long as one individual suffers from that injustice your theory will be politically indefensible. Its evil does not lie in the numbers it affects, but in the principle it establishes. You are fond of meeting objections, by anticipating remedies which may in future be applied, but for this evil there is no remedy but dissolution. The consideration of greater or less can never reconcile any man who has a true sense of personal honour, to the discredit which an unjust arrangement of his religious interests implies.

I do not intend to neglect what you have offered in favour of the view of the Supremacy of Law which regards its operation as confined to the advantage of the Church itself. But that view of the subject is not for a moment to be compared in importance, with the one which has now been passing under our notice. You have quoted with approval, a saying of Dr. Arnold's that "England to a true Englishman ought to be far dearer than the Church of England."* The true Englishman not only freely assents to this sentiment, but deeply appreciates its worth. When he comes to feel that the very existence of the Church of England as an Establishment is opposed to that welfare of England which is involved in the equal rights of her people, this Establishment will fall before the expression of the national will. It is destined so to fall. There is no more marked sign of these times, than that presented by the gradual strengthening and extension throughout society, of the feeling to which I have alluded. The influence of Dissent has increased, and is still spreading: and it has produced a clear sense of the necessity of granting perfect equality of treatment, as between man and man, to those who occupy the Nonconformist ranks: so that what was formerly considered only in the light of a sectarian prejudice on this head, is becoming more and more the persuasion of Dissenters and Churchmen alike.

I am, yours sincerely,

JOHN GORDON.

Evesham, July 3, 1868.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

The Rev. Marmaduke Miller, of Huddersfield, has been lecturing to large audiences in favour of the disendowment of the Established Church in Ireland, at South Shields and Barnsley. The Rev. Charles Vince has lectured at Driffield and at Beverley; in each case to the great satisfaction of large gatherings of people. Both the members for the East Riding being Tories, and the member for Beverley also, there was good ground for holding the meetings, which are expected to exert a beneficial influence on the coming election. They are to be followed up by other and vigorous efforts.

MANCHESTER.—The Manchester Church Defence Association celebrated its first anniversary in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, by a general meeting on Tuesday night, and by a breakfast in the same building on the following morning. The meeting was numerously attended. The only celebrity present, out of a number of noblemen invited, was Lord Oranmore, who spoke both at the meeting and at the breakfast. Mr. Alderman Lamb, the Rev. Mr. Kearney, Mr. H. C. Raikes (of Chester), and the Rev. S. G. Potter were among the speakers. The speeches contained nothing very original or interesting, being chiefly directed against the disendowment of the Irish Church, and congratulations that "we have a House of Lords." It was stated at the breakfast that 500*l.* would be needed as the sinews of war to defend the Irish Church, and papers were handed round soliciting donations; but the result provoked no enthusiasm, as the amount of promises were not stated. About 150 persons were present. Several speakers mentioned the name of Mr. H. C. Raikes as a Conservative candidate at the next election for Manchester. Mr. Raikes has unsuccessfully contested Devonport and Chester at past elections.

CLECKHEATON.—A few evenings since the Rev. Dr. Massingham delivered a lecture in the National schoolroom of this town, the chair being occupied by the Rev. Canon Heald. Admission was by ticket. The school was filled. The lecture, which was the same as Dr. Massingham has delivered in other towns, was received with applause and occasional hisses. The members of the Cleckheaton branch of the National Reform League having expressed a wish for an open-air meeting, held one outside, a wagon being used as a platform. Mr. E. Wadsworth was called to the chair. Mr. Joseph Clay proposed a resolution in favour of the disendowment and disestablishment of the Irish Church. Mr. C. B. Anderton seconded the motion. It was supported by Mr. A. Illingworth, of Bradford, who addressed the meeting at some length with his usual vigour. The resolution having been carried with acclamation, Mr. Mark Price, of Manchester, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting.

A NEW CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of Conservatives, convened by public advertisement, was held at 5, King's Bench-walk, Temple, on Wednesday afternoon, at which about twenty-five persons were present, "to oppose the policy of Mr. Gladstone and Dr. Pusey." Dr. Pusey has, it must be stated, given offence to many High Churchmen by his undisguised predilection for "free church" principles. The Dean of York took the chair, and was supported by the Archdeacons of Taunton, Ely, and Oxford, the Rev. F. K. Leighton, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford;

the Hon. H. Walpole; Mr. G. Pridaux, Q.C.; Mr. Powell, M.P.; the Revs. Canon Woodford, Vicar of Leeds; Dr. Fraser, Dr. F. G. Lee, Wayland Joyce, W. R. Cosens, Charles Lloyd, T. Darling, J. Ross, A. C. Tarbutt, Messrs. Wyndham, Holgate, Randle, Bennett, Professor Cutler, Ernest Fitzroy, H. Kingmill, &c. Resolutions were passed for forming a new "Church and State Association," of which the president is the Dean of York, and the vice-president, Mr. J. E. Gorst, M.P., with a preliminary council. Several promises of substantial pecuniary support were made, and it was resolved not only to obtain a monster declaration in favour of the principle of "Establishment and Endowment," but "to render active support to the head of her Majesty's Government at the ensuing elections, by urging upon the clergy to take a more active part in political questions than has been their custom."

GREAT ORANGE DEMONSTRATION.—On Wednesday one of the greatest Protestant open-air demonstrations held in Ulster for the last quarter of a century took place in a field at Lisburn, eight miles from Belfast. The meeting was under the patronage of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. Fifteen thousand persons were present, the majority being dressed in the insignia. The speakers were all Orangemen, and the Established Church was defended, and the Party Processions Act condemned. All passed off quietly. Speaking of this meeting, the *Londonderry Standard* says—

There was a tolerable array of Episcopalian ministers on the platform, but not a single Presbyterian clergyman seems to have been in attendance. In the clerical portion of the oratory as reported, vigorous attempts were made to connect the meeting with the maintenance of the Irish Established Church in the sense of the "Protestant Defence Associations," and though some of the lay speakers palpably sympathised with this tendency, yet others gave direct expression to sentiments by no means in harmony with the current strain of "Defence" oratory, while in some influential quarters a remarkable silence prevailed. The first resolution, containing a declaration of unalterable determination to support the Sovereign, the Protestant religion, the Legislative Union, and the Protestant succession to the Throne, was moved by Arthur Hamilton Foster, Esq., J.P., Grand Master for County Donagall; and this gentleman, after repudiating the doctrine of the "Divine Right" of monarchs, proceeded to say, that, by the expression "Protestant religion," he did not mean "simply the Established Church, but the Protestant religion, as embracing all true Protestant Churches." Mr. Grand Master Foster farther explained, that it is not the Irish Established Church, under its present Erastian constitution, as a piece of fixed State machinery, which he and his friends wish to maintain, but a reformed Episcopacy, embodying a large admixture of Presbyterian freedom, giving to the Episcopalian laity a potential voice in, and a legitimate influence over ecclesiastical deliberations! This, we may remark, is an avowal in direct antagonism to the programme of the "Protestant Defence Association," in which the Erastian "Supremacy of the Crown" over the Church is made to be a fundamental principle to be contended for "to the death," if necessary. . . . Mr. Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, at the commencement of his address, explained the grounds upon which he and his friends, who evidently formed a powerful section, perhaps a majority, of the assemblage, had attended on the occasion, namely, to protest against the "tyranny and oppression" associated with the "Party Processions Act," and to demand its repeal; but not one syllable did Mr. Johnston utter on the subject of the Irish Established Church. His friends, too, proclaimed his candidature for Belfast, keenly censured many of the Ulster representatives, threatening them with successors at the next general election, and declared their own independence of all traditional leaderships, but they abstained from any volunteered statements on the Establishment question, contenting themselves with professions of adherence to the "Protestant religion." Mr. Johnston himself read a letter from one of the members for Fermanagh, expressing a hope that "some declaration of their determination to stand by the Established Church of Ireland" would emanate from the meeting; but in Mr. Johnston's own reported speech there is not a sentence bearing this construction, while suggestive passages of another class incidentally turn up.

THE BISHOPS ON THE IRISH CHURCH.

(From the *Spectator*.)

Three archbishops—their Graces of Canterbury, York, and Armagh; and three bishops—the Bishops of London, Oxford, and Killaloe, spoke in the Lords' debate on the Irish Church. Five out of the six speeches were really able, and some of them were amongst the ablest of the speeches delivered on that side of the question. But what was their special character as episcopal speeches? We will briefly summarise what seems to us their strongest points. The Archbishop of Canterbury, who contented himself with striking the key-note of the English feeling on the subject, made two points in his speech—that the demand for strict religious equality could not be conceded in Ireland without creating a precedent most menacing to the Established Churches of England and Scotland; and that any concession to the discontent in Ireland at the present time would be a premium on rebellion and "an incentive to fresh depredations." The archbishop showed himself entirely insensible to the fact that when the demand for religious equality is made by the great mass of a population differing in faith and race from the people who practically rule the empire, and by a population long accustomed to what it believes oppressive treatment, the demand is entitled to a very different degree of weight from that which need be assigned to it where religious equality is required, with a certain delight in the contentiousness of the requisition, by sturdy English Dissenters, who will defend their National Church pretty stoutly against any critics but themselves. And when the archbishop makes the danger of encouraging sedition a reason for

* Stanley's Address, p. 15.

* Stanley's Address, p. 10.

withholding satisfaction from what at least half England believes to be a just demand, he lays himself open to the very unpleasant criticism that he recommends to Liberals and those who think with them to delay justice as a new penalty for the sensitiveness which smarts under injustice. Whatever plausibility there was in the Archbishop of Canterbury's two reasons for opposing the disestablishment of the Irish Church, there was certainly nothing in his speech of what we should expect from the delicacy and charity of a large spiritual nature. He gave a hard man of the world's reasons for obstinacy, though Dr. Longley is not believed to be a mere hard man of the world.

The Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London took a different line. Both of them insisted much on the defective machinery of the Suspensory Bill. Both of them were indignant against leaving dioceses which might happen to become vacant during the coming year without a spiritual head. Both of them spoke as if the bill were intended to kill the Irish Church "by inches," though both of them would, in all probability, have attacked a bill which had not given fair warning, expressly on the ground that it did not prepare them by inches for changes measurable only by miles. Both of them insisted with great force on faults of detail, which they should have urged in committee, and not on the second reading. The Archbishop of York protested against being supposed to feel any "blind and bigoted hatred of disestablishment or disendowment," and promised to consider fairly a bill directly bringing about that end, if ever one should be brought before him; but in the meantime branded this Suspensory Bill—this bill which everyone knows to be mere legal notice of a greater bill—this bill the imperfect practical details of which he well knows could have been amended in committee, with a quite unnatural heat as "a bill rank with foul injustice"—an expression by which the diplomatic archbishop certainly gained, and probably intended to gain, the cheers not of those Lords who objected to the details of the Suspensory Bill, but of those who are not against the very idea of disestablishment and disendowment. Indeed, the archbishop took care, while promising unbiassed consideration of the greater measure, to prejudice it as much as he could. He protested in the name of all religions against the application of property once devoted to religious uses to any other than religious uses. He intimated also that any application of this property to Roman Catholic uses would not be in his opinion admissible; at least, that is how we understood the following rather enigmatic sentences, otherwise nearly unmeaning. "Sweep away the Irish Church, and then tell me what is my duty. I do not hold with the Roman Catholic religion. I think it shuts up the Bible from the poor, and I feel that there is nothing wise but the Bible. I think that the Roman Catholic religion is, after all, a foreign element; and that it strains the jurisdiction which it claims in a preposterous manner we have all seen within the last few days. What, then, is my duty if the Irish Church be disestablished? Am I to send my little tribute to missionary efforts in foreign countries, and not to send my share of it to Ireland? You may depend upon it, the whole attitude of the Church in Ireland will be altered the day you disestablish and disendow it." But if no application of the Church property to other than religious uses be admissible, and Roman Catholic uses be not among the admissible religious uses, the Archbishop's candour in offering to consider fairly any bill that is not intermediate and suspensory, does not come to much more than an offer to reject it. His Grace seems to have thought it desirable to put the detailed objections in the front of the battle, and to reveal his deeper feeling only to the practised ear by repudiating any sympathy with Roman Catholicism, and applying violent epithets like "rank," "foul," "monstrous" to a measure which could not earn such strong language except as introductory to something much greater than itself. The Bishop of London, who had originated the ingenious policy of attacking the bill in its detail rather than in its principle, intimated with much greater frankness than the Archbishop of York that the endowments should not be given to the Roman Catholics, but kept for the Protestants, and urged still more strongly the duty of counterbalancing the foreign Ultramontane influences by all the authority of the State. Dr. Tait, too, like Dr. Thomson, would be anxious to "consider" the ultimate bill when it should come, though he would not consider the preliminary bill—but apparently only in case it proposed to keep all the Protestant endowments within the Protestant Church, which is a pretty safe proviso. Neither the Archbishop of York nor the Bishop of London showed the slightest gleam of consideration or regard for the Irish Catholics in the matter.

Then there was the Bishop of Oxford. Well, the Bishop of Oxford cut jokes—at the Duke of Argyll for being a Presbyterian; at Mr. Spurgeon for having rheumatic gout in his leg, and being a Baptist; at the Roman Catholics for supposing any Anglican bishop would be willing to pay them for prohibiting Roman Catholics from coming to hear Anglican preachers; but Dr. Wilberforce urged but three arguments against disestablishment and disendowment as far as we can perceive—one, that the Irish Church had not had a fair chance in former times, because she had been degraded by her subordination to the State—a very curious argument against the proposal to do away with that subordination;—next, the Archbishop of Canterbury's argument, more audaciously expressed, that "we are asked to confis-

cate the revenues of the Church to buy off assassins" (to wit, of the Duke of Edinburgh); and, finally, that any undermining of the Anglican Church in Ireland will strengthen Rome, and give the priests the power of nominating the representatives of the people in the Lower House. The Bishop of Oxford, more carefully than any bishop, marked his desire to protect Protestant ascendancy. If Dr. Wilberforce is constrained to go with the Roman Catholics a Ritualist mile, he at least makes up for it by walking twain in the reverse direction on the first political opportunity.

Then there were the Archbishop of Armagh and the Bishop of Killaloe. The former signalled himself by a completely new argument—that if the present Protestant Church numbers only one-eighth of the people, the Church property is nevertheless only one-eighth of the old Church property—just the right proportion. The Archbishop, however, failing to show that the remaining seven-eighths, now absorbed, had been absorbed by the Roman Catholics—or even that the Protestants had not had more than their full share of it—this argument resulted in more amusement than conviction. The Archbishop further represented that as most rich Protestants are absentees, and will not subscribe to Church subscriptions, the Church is really dependent on the State—a plea which naively grants that the Church will not be supported by those who really need her—as the Catholic Church is. Further, even resident Protestants will be driven away if they cannot find Churches which are supported without their hearty aid—another blow at the Protestants. Finally, the Irish difficulty does not rest on the Church, but the land. A mob in the Archbishop of Armagh's parish at the time of the tithe war assembled round a house, crying "No tithe," till somebody cried "No rent," when the "No tithe" cry merged in the greater cry. So says the Archbishop. Well, but what is the inference from that? Is it not the fact that the reform of the tithe-injustice really did put an end to the special tithe-war and the special tithe-cry without raising a land-war and land-cry? Why, then, should not the reform of the Church injustice do as much? The Archbishop seems to think that the more real cause there is for complaint, the better is the chance of averting causeless complaint. Perhaps so, but is it not a dangerous principle to fortify yourself in small outlying injustices, lest you should have to defend yourself for what you believe in your heart to be right and just? It is not an argument we should expect from an archbishop. The Bishop of Killaloe took a somewhat similar line. Protestant ascendancy, he said, was a fact, and a fact not to be ignored. Even the Liberals proved it to be a fact by not boldly daring to propose to establish Catholicism, and instead only venturing to ask for the disestablishment of Protestantism. "What is it that prevents you from establishing the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland? Do not you know very well that it is the Protestant feeling of the people of England and Scotland? Well, what is that but Protestant ascendancy?" As it would be almost equally difficult at present to establish a new form of Protestantism in either country, we do not see the force of the argument. But its main feature is that the Irish bishops proclaim boldly the fact of Protestant ascendancy, and justify it.

Thus, not one of the six prelates who spoke in the debate evinced the shadow of a tenderness for Roman Catholic feeling,—not one protested his willingness to share with the Roman Catholics the national property which is a stumbling-block and rock of offence to the Roman Catholics, or to resign it. Not one strove to place himself in the Roman Catholic point of view. Not one strove to act to the Roman Catholics as he would have wished that the Roman Catholics should, in like circumstances, act to him. Not one but took, with more or less emphasis, the hard landlord's view of proprietary rights. Not one but trusted, and trusted only, in the rivalry of the "wise things of the world and the things which are mighty," for curbing the ambition of Rome. Not one that, as far as we can see, uttered a single Christian sentiment towards the religion of the great mass of the Irish people. Not one that spoke of a religious question in a religious spirit. Acute lawyers, two at least of the bishops showed themselves. Keen political partisans all showed themselves. But not one of the six by his speech, not one of the whole bench of bishops by his vote, showed himself desirous to sacrifice something of outward wealth and power and dignity, to win the hearts of a race more open to the impression of generous sentiments and the genuine spirit of self-sacrifice, than Englishmen themselves. It was a great spiritual opportunity ignobly wasted by all the spiritual heads of a great Church.

CONVOCATION.

THE COLENSO CASE.

At the meeting of the Upper House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury on Tuesday last week, the Bishop of London read the report of the committee appointed in a previous session "to report on the canonicity of the judgment of the Bishop of Capetown" in reference to the case of Dr. Colenso. The document was of considerable length. It stated that, although on the supposition of the invalidity of the letters patent the Bishop of Capetown can claim no coercive jurisdiction as metropolitan, he was fully entitled to act in the question under discussion; that he so duly acted; and that the granting of the appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury was in due accordance with the tenor of the letters patent. The committee were not equally agreed as to the proceedings in synod. With regard, however, to the whole case,

their lordships are of opinion that substantial justice was done to the accused; that, though the sentence, having been pronounced by a tribunal not acknowledged by the Queen's courts, whether civil or ecclesiastical, can claim no legal effect, the Church as a spiritual body may rightly accept its validity. The Bishop of London made a formal addition to the report, stating his inability to append his signature to the report, as it does not set forth those grounds which have chiefly prevented his acknowledging the validity of the trial and sentence. The Bishop of Lichfield, in seconding the motion, said he had advised the Bishop of Capetown not to spend any more money in legal proceedings, but to husband his resources, so that he might obtain the consecration of a faithful bishop for the diocese of Natal, where at present they saw the chief heretic of modern times. The debate was adjourned till the following day, when the motion was carried.

In the Lower House on Thursday Canon SEYMOUR submitted a resolution, thanking the Upper House for communicating the report of the committee as adopted by the Upper House on the Natal question, together with their lordships' judgment that the Church as a spiritual body might rightly accept the validity of the sentence passed on Dr. Colenso, and declaring the concurrence in their lordships' judgment. The Rev. J. BRAMSTONE seconded it. The Dean of WESTMINSTER held that, as the Church of England only existed as a spiritual body, in connection with its legal status and organisation, they were not in a position to declare that the Bishop of Natal had been rightly deposed while such strong doubts existed as to the legality of the deposition. The opinions of the bishops were vague and indefinite, except the Bishop of London, who considered the deposition illegal, and gave reasons for his opinion. Canon BLAKESLEY moved an amendment that they should accept the bishops' communication with thanks, but express no opinion upon it. This the DEAN seconded, but after a discussion it was put and lost, the original motion being carried. The Rev. J. W. JOYCE moved that the House do not agree in the arguments of the Bishop of London in dissenting from the conclusion of the other bishops; but, at the suggestion of several members, this was not passed. It, however, elicited from Canon Blakesley, Archdeacon Harvey, Archdeacon Kaye, and some others, an expression of sympathy in the Bishop of London's views. Ultimately, the thanks of the House were voted to the Upper House for sending down his lordship's protest and reasons.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

In the Upper House on Wednesday, the Bishop of LINCOLN moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty would be pleased to take such measures as should be thought advisable to prevent the disestablishment and disendowment of the Established Church in Ireland. His lordship felt they were bound, as members of the Church, to express to her Majesty their belief that the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland would be utterly undeserved by its members, while it would inflict a great injury, not only upon Ireland, but upon the United Kingdom. The Bishop of LLANDAFF having seconded the motion, the Bishop of SALISBURY, who spoke in the highest terms of admiration of the genius and purity of conduct of Mr. Gladstone, whom he had known for many years, and of whom he expressed his conviction that he would be faithful to the end to God's truth, said that the course which that eminent man had taken had raised in his mind very strong doubts whether there was not some strong reason for introducing this measure. He could not but remember that they were living in times when the Legislature was bound to take care and meet the feelings of the people. He knew that Mr. Gladstone had for many years felt that this measure must come forward and be decided one way or the other when circumstances forced it upon the consideration of the people. The Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of Ely, and the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol supported the address, and the motion was agreed to.

In the Lower House on Thursday, Dr. JEBB proposed that the House should concur in the address of the bishops. In the course of a very long speech he maintained that the Protestant Church had maintained the purity of the faith in Ireland, and with respect to the alleged failure in the mission of the Irish Church, he held that, if its progress had not been highly marked, yet it had sustained the position given to it.

Archdeacon DENISON seconded the motion, and held that the Irish Church could not be separated from the State, and that it had a right to its establishment and endowments, which, he maintained, could not be taken away from the Church. The Church must receive its endowments, and the State must control the Church, so the connection must continue, and a free church was altogether out of the question. He ridiculed the idea of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland being endowed, and he added it was well known the Roman Catholic priesthood in Ireland would not accept any such endowment even if it were offered, and he concluded by urging that this was a favourable opportunity for English clergymen of all ways of thinking to unite in their duty to God, to their Sovereign, and to the Irish people of the present and future, in preserving, as they were bound to do, this Church in its full rights.

The Dean of WESTMINSTER said he could not give his concurrence to any proposition so vague as that sent down from the Upper House:—

The message of their lordships proceeded altogether on a wrong basis, and, indeed, the language of the message was such that the bishops did not themselves understand it. For his part, he thought the most

politic course to take would be not to drive the Legislature into the corner, and say, "You must not disestablish, and you must not disendow," and, therefore, he held that the address should not be presented to the Crown. There were those who took the position of what was known as the "No surrender" policy; but nothing was so dangerous as that policy, for it would seem to imply that those who adopted it would refuse to go into the question of the Irish Church as an Establishment, and the man who would say that the questions connected with this Establishment could be answered with a "Yes" or "No" would be a very bold man indeed. (Hear.) In the discussions which had occurred upon these matters a great deal had been said as to the course which would best give "justice to Ireland," and in the proposition he was about to make he might say that he was not giving what was his opinion alone of that which would be justice to Ireland, but the views of some of the greatest statesmen of this country were embodied in one proposition he should make—namely, the endowment of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, a principle which had been supported by great statesmen, except of course, by those who thought that Christianity could be best carried on in the world by the voluntary principle. If this House thought that this recognition of the Roman Catholic Church would be the best course to adopt the members should speak out, for they were not shackled by party ties, as members of the House of Commons, and they were bound to express their views: for if there was any use in having a House not mixed up with politics, it was that the members might express their opinions as to what was good for the country. (Hear, hear.) As to the statement which had been made respecting the Roman Catholics refusing to receive an endowment, he said that this was no reason why an endowment should not be given. He pointed out that by the Charitable Bequests Act a position was given to the Roman Catholic Archbishops in Ireland, and of this they had not been slow to avail themselves, and in the same way that Church would accept an endowment if it were made. He felt that it would be a very ungracious thing to say anything about the Irish Church in its present state of distress; but still it could not be denied that there was something in it which we were not accustomed to in the English Church, and something which we should not like to see in our own Church. There were, he would not say abuses, but anomalies, which had come down from the misgovernment of former times, and these could not be left unaltered if the question was to have a peaceful solution. He should propose in some form the following resolution:—

That it is the opinion of the House, as of many eminent statesmen, the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland ought to be endowed and recognised, as in other European countries; that the anomalies of the Established Protestant Church in Ireland should be reduced, but that, if possible, its connection with the English State should be retained, as conducive to the peace and well-being of the Church and of the Irish nation.

He proceeded to say that nothing could be more harmful to the Irish Church than to suppose that it could not be changed in any way, and the existing anomalies redressed. He pointed out that foreign writers were in the habit of drawing attention to the number of Irish bishops in proportion to the population, and the other anomalies, which had the effect of producing an impression that the Church in Ireland was a wrong upon the Irish people, and if these anomalies were redressed the whole of the argument would collapse. There had been anomalies and abuses in the Church of England, and the late Archbishop Howley had been led to consider those questions through a street riot in Canterbury; and who could say that the Church had not gained by what was done then? (Hear.) He should regard the separation of the Church from the State in Ireland as a very great misfortune, and, indeed, he saw so many difficulties in the way of disestablishment, taking the word in its proper sense, that it would be found almost impossible. He maintained that disestablishment meant what was done to the Church in the time of the Commonwealth, and to the Episcopal Church in the time of the Revolution, when neither had a shred of their property left.

Canon HEAVYSIDE seconded the amendment, and said he had always thought it was the duty of English statesmen to endow the Roman Catholic Church of Ireland, for he had always thought a wrong was done to the many in Ireland that the Church of the few only should be endowed. He held that the Irish Established Church would always be the State Church while it was marked with any preference, and therefore he disregarded the arguments which had been advanced as to that Church being less than what it is even if the proposals made elsewhere should be adopted.

After some conversation at this stage, the Dean of WESTMINSTER sanctioned his amendment being treated throughout as a rider to the address.

Mr. Chancellor MASSINGBERD said the principle of endowing the Roman Catholic priesthood was one to which he would never give his consent, and, he said, to such length were things going that by-and-bye it would be no surprising thing to find propositions for opening communications with the Court of Rome, the establishment of a Concordat, and the sitting of Roman Catholic bishops in the House of Lords.

Archdeacon SANDFORD said that, as one of those who signed the petition against the Irish Church, he felt reluctant to give a silent vote upon the question before the House.

He then proceeded to say that he was deeply convinced that, notwithstanding the action of the Upper House of the Legislature on Mr. Gladstone's bill—notwithstanding what might be done by Convocation, the great anomalies existing in the Irish Church would cease, as the opinion of the people and their sense of justice were against its continuance. He spoke of the Irish system as indefensible, and he said the sore must be removed before the Church could flourish. That Church had been founded and maintained, not by truth and justice, but by swords and bayonets; and the people neither of Scotland nor of England would have submitted to the same injustice. He demurred to the combination of the Church of England with the Church of Ireland, for he said the position of the former was maintained, not in the gilded mitres of her bishops, but in the love of the people. As to the Dean of West-

minster's proposition to endow the Roman Catholic priesthood, this he would have nothing to do with. He thanked God his hands were clean from it. He concluded, not without emotion, by expressing the deep regret with which he found himself in opposition to the general views of the House.

Mr. JOYCE and Lord ALWYN COMPTON spoke, and then Mr. Sadler, who described himself as a Conservative High Churchman, took the same line as Archdeacon Sandford, and said that he had signed the same petition.

The discussion was continued at great length, and several amendments were negatived, and the address was agreed to. The Dean of Westminster's rider was then divided into three propositions, and the first, to the effect "That the anomalies of the Irish Church should be redressed," was negatived. It was then several times attempted to adjourn, and, at length, when the House had sat eight hours, the Prolocutor read the prorogation.

On Friday the debate was resumed by Canon SELWYN, who moved to add to the address of the Upper House that the Lower House strongly feels the peculiar difficulties of the Irish Church, and would gladly witness the adoption of well-considered measures for the solution of these difficulties. This was seconded by Canon WOODGATE, but was opposed by Archdeacon DENISON because of its vagueness. The Dean of ELY, while protesting against the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, was favourable to such reforms in it as would make it more suitable to the circumstances of the country. He supported the addition, if only to remove an impression which might else obtain out of doors, that Convocation would resist any change. After a discussion the amendment was agreed to by thirty-six against ten.

The Dean of WESTMINSTER then rose to bring forward his third resolution:—

The Roman Catholic Church ought to be endowed or recognised as in other European countries.

It seemed to him, he said, that this measure, which had been so often before the mind of England, would be the only real measure of justice to Ireland possible to propose. When Archdeacon Sandford spoke on the previous evening all his arguments pointed to this end, which, however, he never reached, though his whole speech pointed to the justice of this course. The endowment of the Roman Catholic Church of Ireland was demanded by other European countries when they spoke of Ireland, and by the chief statesmen who had not been influenced by the voluntary Church principle. It had been said that this was a question not for ecclesiastics, but for statesmen alone; but he held that *a fortiori* ecclesiastics were the very persons to propose such a course, not only because they were the guardians of justice and religion, but because ecclesiastics had an important influence upon the action of statesmen who initiated such questions. The Maynooth Grant and the acknowledgment of the status of Roman Catholic archbishops in Ireland by the Charitable Bequests Act passed in the present reign showed that the question could be dealt with, and he held it would be far better to have the Roman Catholic Church under the control of the English Government than to have it independent. He thought it not very creditable that both parties in the State were repudiating this settlement, which he thought was the only settlement. He then withdrew his resolution.

At the meeting of the Upper House on Saturday, the Bishop of OXFORD moved, that as the resolution adopted by the Lower House for a reform of the Irish Church was only the expression of the views of that assembly, and had not been considered by their lordships, who wished to suspend all judgment till they had the whole case before them, that resolution should be simply appended to the address. This was seconded by the Bishop of GLOUCESTER, and agreed to.

There have also been discussions in Convocation on a project for a reform of that body, on the marriage of divorced persons, and on harvest thanksgiving services. The Lower House discharged the order for discussing the resolutions of the Upper House on Ritualistic practices, and the Upper House has appointed a committee to inquire into the nature of a book by the Rev. Charles Voysey, entitled, "The Sling and the Stone" [which is referred to elsewhere by a correspondent.]

Beth Houses stand adjourned to the 15th inst.

MR. SPURGEON AND THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.

The following appears in the daily papers of Saturday:—

Sir,—I have asserted frequently the superiority of the Voluntary principle to that of State support in the matter of religion, and I have also at other times lamented the poverty of many ministers whose stipends are subscribed upon the system which I prefer. The two things appear to me to be quite consistent, but several of the newspapers judge otherwise, and one or two of them have printed my statements in parallel columns, as if they contained a self-evident contradiction. The Bishop of Oxford was evidently much amused with the now well-worn paragraph, and, being in a facetious vein, felt moved to read quotations from my two letters for the delectation of the Peers of the realm. I am happy to have afforded some little mirth to the grave and reverend Bishop, and would willingly share in it, but I am quite unable to see the point of the joke. Perhaps a parallel case may render my obtuseness less remarkable.

If the Bishop of Oxford, after having, in such a becoming manner, with such solid reasoning, defended the union of Church and State, should nevertheless be found at some future day pleading for starving curates, or even preaching for the excellent society which relieves distressed clerks in Holy Orders with pecuniary grants

and bundles of cast-off clothing; or if we should hear him deploring that a clergyman should, according to an advertisement in the *Rock*, be subsisting upon butter-milk and potatoes, would his lordship be charged with inconsistency, and would it be commendable for some humorous member of the venerable Bench in tones of mimicry to make him the subject of public ridicule? The case is precisely parallel to mine, but if there were any fun in it, it would surely lie in the folly of the person who should imagine the non-existent inconsistency. The poverty of some Dissenting ministers is only an argument against the Voluntary principle as far as the extreme distress of a considerable number of the Anglican clergy is an argument against State support. The painful evil of clerical poverty exists under both forms of maintenance, and it ought not to be made the ground of mutual attack or recrimination, but should be deeply deplored and manfully grappled with. From reasons not essential to either system a great evil arises; a zealous emulation as to which should sooner rid itself of the mischief would be most honourable, but to twist each other with sorrows is as unwise as it is ungenerous.

Every man who speaks freely what he believes, and follows truth with a confident unreserve, will be open to the charge of inconsistency, and yet there will be only an apparent ground for the accusation. Such, I am sure, is the fact in this case. If I advocate the Voluntary system, must I shut my eyes to its failures, or be impeached for folly? Must I defend its workings as absolute perfection, or else be grossly unreasonable in preferring it? If I point out its shortcomings in order to amend them, am I self-convicted of inconsistency? It may seem so to the Bishop of Oxford, but I claim the right to differ from him without being ridiculous. One illustration, and I will not further occupy your space. Suppose that two farms in Ireland are put in comparison. I declare my preference for No. 2, and yet regret that it is much depreciated in value by a piece of incorrigible bog. A gentleman who vehemently advocates the superiority of farm No. 1 hearing my two statements, resolves to make me his laughing-stock at the next agricultural dinner, and being in the full swing of his oratory exclaims, "This Mr. Spurgeon, to whom some people look up so much, has spoken in a certain letter most glowingly of the farm which he is weak enough to admire, and yet I will read to you from a document in which he admits that there is a horrible and irreclaimable bog upon it. Ladies and gentlemen, the absurdity is manifest even to the blind; but what a prospect is before you if his judgment is followed! What say you to universal quagmires? How would you feel if your homesteads and estates were all turned into quivering morasses, and if the fine property of his lordship in the chair should be transformed into a vast Slough of Despond?"

In some uncivilised rural nook there may be a benighted population sufficiently moonstruck to admire the logic and applaud the humour of such observations; but even with so congenial an audience the acclamations would soon be silenced when the conveniently forgetful orator was reminded that his own favourite farm, about which he could not utter sufficient laudation, was afflicted with a bog equally bottomless with that which he so much decried. It is probable that our imaginary orator would scarcely have sense enough to wish that he had not spoken; in this only does his case differ from that of Mr. Samuel Wilberforce.

Yours truly,
Clapham, July 3. C. H. SPURGEON.

The *Telegraph* reports that at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on Sunday morning, Mr. Spurgeon, in preaching from "God, even our own God, shall bless us," availed himself of the occasion to give another reply to the Bishop of Oxford. He said:—

It is not the instrumentality which we have to look to, but it is the power from Heaven which is given to the instrumentality that makes the Church irresistible. We heard it said the other day that the religion of Jesus Christ could not be expected to prosper unless it had a fair start given to it, and, strange to say, that observation did not, as you might suppose, come from an infidel, but it absolutely came from a bishop. A fair start, indeed! Put up the religion of Jesus Christ anywhere, and it asks for nothing. It only wants its own inherent strength to be developed, and to be let alone by the kings and princes of this world. To be let alone, did I say? Yes. Let these kings and princes oppose it if they like, only let them withdraw from it that deadly thing, their patronage, and the truth of God will always prevail against every obstacle. We do not tremble, then, for the success of the Church or Christ, though the servants of God be poor or comparatively weak in numbers, for we know that "God will bless us"; and, if we be few, we remember that the twelve unlettered fishermen who first went out to plant the Church were fewer still, yet that they made old Rome to shake from end to end, and levelled colossal citadels even with the ground; and so shall it ever be with Christianity if only God shall bless her with the ancient might that made her strong in days of old.

Lord ELOHO, on the 17th will call the attention of the House of Commons to the Coronation Oath.

The Bishop of Lichfield left England on Thursday for New Zealand.

There are 306 religious newspapers and periodical, published in the United States, of which 60 are Baptist, 54 Methodist, 30 Presbyterian, 29 Lutherans, 26 Episcopal, 24 Catholic, 16 Congregational, 11 Universalist, and the remainder miscellaneous.

The *John Bull* has an article on the proceedings of Dean Alford and Archdeacon Sandford at the Oshunt College centenary. It says:—"Earnestly desiring the reconciliation of Dissenters, we can imagine no course more calculated to prevent that most desirable end."

THE DIVISION ON THE UNIVERSITIES BILL.—In Wednesday's majority on Mr. Coleridge's bill, there were four Conservatives—Mr. Bowen, Mr. Gaskell, Mr. Hartley, and Mr. M'Lagan. With the exception of Mr. H. B. Baring, the minority was composed exclusively of Ministerialists.

VICISSITUDES OF THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.—Thirteen years ago the measure for total abolition passed its second reading by a majority of 28, and this rose to 43 in 1856, to 53 two years afterwards

and to 74 in 1859. The new Parliament summoned in that year gave it a majority of 70, which fell to 29 in 1860, and to 9 on the third reading. In 1861 there was a majority of 15 on the second reading, but on the third there was a tie, 274 voting on either side. The next year there was a majority of one only, while in 1863 the supporters of the bill were in a minority of 10. In the first session of the present Parliament there was a majority of 33 in favour of the measure, and this was increased to 76 in the second, the highest ever recorded. This decisive expression of opinion on the part of the House of Commons appears to have cleared the way for the acceptance by the Lords of the compromise now offered by Mr. Gladstone.—*Daily News*.

THE IRISH CHURCH DEFENDERS AND MR. GLADSTONE.—At a breakfast held at Manchester on Wednesday, the Rev. J. Birchall remarked that Mr. Gladstone was looking ill. "He might well look ill," continued the speaker, "because no doubt conscience was performing its angry work upon him."

DENOMINATIONAL UNION IN AMERICA.—Nine Episcopal clergymen of Newark, N. J., have recently written to the Methodist Episcopal Conference, held at Chicago, asking that body to appoint a commission of bishops and other clergy to confer with a similar commission from the Episcopal Church on the subject of organic union between the two Churches. The paper is the more remarkable as the signers represent various opinions as to ritualistic forms. Much curiosity is felt as to what action will be taken in the matter at Chicago.

THE PEERS AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—A correspondent states that a reference to "Dod's Parliamentary Companion" shows that the 97 peers who voted in favour of the Suspensory Bill present to 305 livings; while the 192 who voted against it present to 1,692. Of the 27 peers, those in favour present to 66, and those against to 154 livings. The total number is as follows:—In favour, 124 peers, presenting to 371 livings; against, 319 peers, presenting to 1,846 livings—majority, 95 peers, presenting to 1,475 livings. The above figures fully account for the decided majority against this bill. Whether it is prudent for the peers to present themselves in the light of a gigantic trades' union, determined to withhold all their privileges, at whatever cost, is, of course, a matter for their own consideration.—*Star*.

DR. CULLEN AND THE ROMISH UNIVERSITY.—Through the medium of an address to the students at the Roman Catholic University in Dublin, Cardinal Cullen has just read a lecture to her Majesty's Government. His remarks were directed chiefly to the negotiations which have taken place this session on the subject of a charter to the institution. The "fair and moderate demand" for an endowment had been refused, and while complaining of the manner in which the Irish prelates had been treated throughout the correspondence, the cardinal was not surprised at it; for "the same spirit had been manifested for 300 years." He inveighed against the way in which "the talent and genius of the noble Celtic race had been systematically smothered," and contrasted the present system of "monopoly and insulting ascendancy" with the growth of educational liberty in Spain, France, and Prussia.

THE PATRONAGE QUESTION IN SCOTLAND.—The committee appointed by the Established Church of Scotland at a recent meeting of the General Assembly on the subject of patronage, has lost no time in carrying out the object for which it was appointed. It has already issued two sets of queries. One of these is addressed to the Presbyteries, and the other to the elders; and both are designed to obtain information as to the working of the late Lord Aberdeen's Act for the regulation of patronage and the settlement of ministers in the various parishes. The opinion of the inferior church courts and of the office-bearers is requested as to whether any alteration or modification of the present law of patronage is expedient or necessary. A clause in the schedule of queries issued to elders, calls upon these functionaries to state whether they are aware of any disputed settlements or protracted delay in supplying vacancies in the Free or other Dissenting Churches, and to supply all the information they can obtain on this point.

THE CHURCH IN THE WEST INDIES.—A Parliamentary return has been issued of the names and offices or incumbencies of all persons in the West Indies now receiving a salary or pension from the Consolidated Fund, the date of their appointment, and the amount paid to each individually. In the diocese of Jamaica the salaries range from 3,000*l.* (that of the Bishop of Jamaica) down to the catechist's pay of 100*l.*, the total for the diocese amounting to 2,100*l.* In the diocese of Barbadoes, including Barbadoes, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Grenada, and Tobago, the total amount is 5,250*l.*, of which the Bishop of Barbadoes received 2,500*l.*, the archdeacons 600*l.* and 250*l.* respectively, and the remaining 2,000*l.* is divided between twenty-eight clergymen and catechists. In the diocese of Antigua, which includes Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitt's, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, the sum total is 3,850*l.*, of which the bishop and archdeacons receive respectively 2,000*l.*, 500*l.*, and 250*l.*, and the remaining 1,100*l.* is shared by twenty-six clergymen, catechists, and teachers. The diocese of Guiana received 3,100*l.*, of which the bishop has 2,000*l.* The total amount of the grant is 20,300*l.*

AN ERASTIAN CRITIC.—We are not surprised to see the *Spectator* finding fault with the tone, and even with the title, of Mr. Skeats's admirable "History of the Free Churches of England." But we do confess it amused us to find our contemporary denouncing the "blind fury" and the "unmeasured violence and bitterness of the language" employed by Mr. Skeats, who is the most genial and charitable of historians.

This denunciation the critic seeks to justify by quoting a sentence in which Mr. Skeats says that the Church of England in the last century was "little more than an incarnation of Pagan vices." He copies these words with a kind of holy horror which is vastly edifying. But he admits that the sentence is "probably the extreme instance of violence" by which the book is "disfigured." Now, in the same number of the *Spectator*, but in another and a very powerful article, we read the subjoined sentences:—

One of the most marked signs of the times in Catholic countries is the extent to which irreligion is becoming a religion, a fanaticism as fierce and as propagandist as that of any creed has ever been. The change is not so perceptible in the Protestant States, where irreligion tends towards indifference, or rather to a tone of mind lower even than that,—the tone of England just before Whitfield began his career, a tone under which the supernatural is neither loved nor hated, nor feared, nor discussed, but simply ignored, as one might suppose it to be among bees.

The contrast between the two paragraphs is obvious. Are we to understand that only the *Spectator* has a right to say a strong thing against that Church which Erastians so dearly love?—*Greenock Daily Telegraph*.

THE REV. DR. MASSINGHAM AND THE REV. MARMADUKE MILLER.—Dr. Massingham having called upon the Rev. M. Miller to retract a statement that at a meeting at Ipswich "the clergy, as a body, left the platform on which Dr. Massingham lectured, in disgust at his reckless abuse in Ipswich," Mr. Miller replied that the information was taken from a local paper, and adds:—

Seeing, then, that you had at Longton compared Mr. Gladstone to the devil, and that you had at Blackburn classed him with the Todmorden murderer, it did not seem to be at all improbable that you should talk of proposing three cheers for the devil at Ipswich, and that the Rev. Mr. Lockwood and the Rev. Mr. Cowell should leave the platform in disgust. I knew, moreover, that you had been publicly rebuked for your intolerable assumption and bullying by Church of England papers. I knew that the *Clerical Journal* of June 16, 1864, spoke of your performance as follows:—"We do not think that Mr. Massingham's championship is likely to do much service to our cause. There is, we must be allowed to say, a 'bullying' in the style of address, and an assumption of authority not at all likely to convince the gainsayers." Now, knowing all this, and a great deal more of the same sort, I confess that the report I read of your sayings and doings at Ipswich did not strike me as being in the least degree improbable. However, if you did not tell the people they might give three cheers for the devil, and if the Mayor did not express his disapprobation, and if the clergy did not leave the platform in disgust, I regret having made the statement. Indeed, I regret having referred to you in any shape or form. And I certainly should not have referred to your doings at Ipswich, had it not been that you authorized the Rev. Mr. Brasher to challenge me to meet you in public discussion: and I was thus led to assign the reasons why I refused to meet you.

CHANGES IN ECCLESIASTICAL VIEWS.—The Rev. T. Baugh, of Upper-street, Islington, no longer considering baptism a *sine qua non* to church communion or membership, has resigned the pastorate of the Baptist Church at the above place, and has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to Burngreave Congregational Church, Sheffield.—The Rev. L. Lawrence, formerly a Baptist minister, and for the last eight years pastor of the Congregational Chapel, Stone, has resigned his charge in consequence of a change of views. On Sunday week, in preaching his farewell sermon, he stated that, after long and serious inquiry, he had arrived at the conclusion that Congregational principles would not stand the test of the Word of God; that persons were eligible for Church membership who professed faith in Christ, and were consistent in conduct; that pastors should not only teach, but rule; that particular Churches should be under one government, as among the Presbyterians, Wesleyans, and other bodies, and should not stand isolated and apart from each other, as among Independents and Baptists; that the Episcopal form of government was taught in Scripture; and that civil governments had a duty to perform in respect of religion—viz., to protect the fundamental truths of the Gospel, and to discountenance error and vice in every form. He referred to his present position with regard to the Church of England, which he compared to that of Baxter and Henry when they were driven in 1662 from the Church because they objected to various rites and ceremonies. For similar reasons he should be kept out. He afterwards adverted to a resolution passed at the last meeting of the North Staffordshire Union, held at Stone, against the continuance of the Irish Church. His opinions were adverse to this view, and he believed the Irish Church should be maintained. He then saw that he could not much longer continue to be a Congregational minister. Having weighed the subject, and reached the conclusions mentioned, he felt compelled to resign his charge. As may be supposed, the rev. gentleman's observations created considerable astonishment in the minds of the members of the church and congregation. Mr. Lawrence is highly respected by Dissenters and Churchmen, as a faithful preacher and a conscientious man.

GENERAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—The ninety-ninth Annual Association of the New Connexion of General Baptists was held at St. Mary's-gate Chapel, Derby, last week. The churches were represented by a large body of delegates. The total number of members in the 156 churches is 20,686, showing a clear increase of 287 during the year. 1,130 have been added by baptism, and 102 by new churches. The Rev. J. Stevenson, M.A., of Ilkeston; the Rev. T. Preston, of Chesham; and the Rev. W. R. Stevenson, M.A., of Nottingham, took part in the introductory services. The Rev. T. Goadby, B.A., chairman

of the association, delivered his address on Tuesday morning. He dealt with the chief religious features of the present times. On Tuesday evening the annual home mission meeting was held in Osmaston-road Chapel; Mr. A. Goodliffe, of Nottingham, presiding. Speeches were made by the Revs. Dr. Burns, J. H. Atkinson, T. Barras, and T. Goadby, B.A. It is proposed to raise 5,000*l.* for home mission and chapel-building purposes as a centenary fund by the year 1870. On Wednesday morning public worship was commenced by the Rev. H. Ollard, F.S.A., of Derby, and the Association sermon preached by the Rev. Samuel Cox, of Nottingham. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in the afternoon. More than 700 persons communed. The Foreign Missionary Society, whose field of labour is Orissa, where the desolation of famine has recently been so painful and notorious, held its annual public meeting in the evening. The Mayor of Derby (Thomas Roe, jun., Esq.) presided. The Rev. J. C. Pike read parts of the report; and speeches were delivered by the Revs. T. W. Matthews, J. Alcorn, W. Lees, I. Preston, W. Hill, and H. Wilkinson. On Thursday morning a sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Harrison, of Birmingham. The association letter to the churches, on the subject of the "Non-attendance of Professed Christians at Public Worship," was read by the secretary, the Rev. J. Clifford, M.A., LL.B., of London. Amongst other resolutions of a public character, one concerning the Irish Church was passed, to the effect that it is necessary, in the interest of justice and religion, to disestablish and disendow all religious bodies in Ireland.

Religious and Denominational News.

The Rev. H. Banks, of Nottingham, has accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Daubhill Congregational Church, Bolton.

The Rev. D. W. Simon, M.A., Ph. D., at present agent to the British and Foreign Bible Society at Berlin, has accepted the unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the church and congregation worshipping at the Independent Chapel, Keighley.

THETFORD.—On Monday, June 29th, the Rev. W. A. Linington (of the Congregational Institute, Nottingham), was recognised as the pastor of the Congregational church, Thetford, Norfolk. The Rev. — Blenkarn, of Watton; the Rev. J. W. Walker, B.A., of Cheshunt; the Rev. — Hallett, of Norwich; and the Rev. F. S. Williams, professor of the Nottingham Institute, took part in the service. At five o'clock tea was provided for the friends in the Town Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by the Mayor. In the evening the Rev. J. Hallett preached to the congregation.

BLAENAVON.—A new Independent chapel at Blaenavon, Monmouthshire, was opened on Thursday, June 18th. The Rev. H. T. Robjohns, B.A., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, preached morning and evening, and the Rev. H. Oliver, B.A., of Newport, in the afternoon. On Sunday, June 21st, the Rev. J. Evans, of Milford Haven, and the Rev. R. Thomas, of Hanover, preached; on Monday, 22nd, the Rev. P. W. Darton, B.A., of Newport, and the Rev. J. Jenkins, of Pontypool. The chapel, which is a very pleasing and convenient structure, will seat about 450 persons, and cost about 1,000*l.*, the larger part of which is still to be raised.

BIRKENHEAD.—The induction of the Rev. W. H. King, late of Thrapstone, Northamptonshire, as pastor of the Baptist chapel, Grange-lane, Birkenhead, took place on Tuesday, the 23rd ult. Devotional exercises took place in the chapel in the afternoon, conducted by the Rev. S. Simpson, Wesleyan minister, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Mursell, of Kettering, from Matt. xxv. 23. Afterwards the congregation adjourned to the large school-room, and partook of tea and other refreshments. At half-past six o'clock the company reassembled in the chapel, which was crowded in every part. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. S. H. Booth, the late pastor of Grange-lane Chapel, and now minister of the new Baptist chapel in Upper Holloway, London. Amongst those present were several ministers belonging to other denominations.

NEW BROMPTON.—A meeting in connection with the effort to raise a new Congregational church at New Brompton, Kent, was held on Thursday last. Tea was provided in the building used temporarily as a place of worship; and in a large marquee raised on the ground a public meeting was afterwards held, over which the Rev. G. L. Herman, of Chatham, presided. The report of the year's proceedings, read by the pastor, the Rev. J. Harsant, was very encouraging. The attention of the pastor and friends has for some time past been directed towards raising funds for erecting an inexpensive but commodious place of worship. About 700*l.* has been promised, a suitable site obtained, and it is hoped that the committee will soon be able to commence the building. The population of this rising town is now about 8,000, and is rapidly increasing. The meeting was addressed by the chairman; by the Rev. Mr. Jellie, of Rochester; the Rev. Mr. Broadley (Wesleyan), of Brompton; the Rev. Mr. Baxter (Presbyterian), and the Rev. Mr. Crabtree (New Connexion), of New Brompton. The support of the worship during the past year has been sustained chiefly by the help of Samuel Morley, Esq., and by the Kent Association.

WOOLWICH.—On Sunday last the Rev. William Gill closed his official connection as pastor over the church and congregation assembling in Rectory-place Chapel, Woolwich. On Tuesday last the farewell services were brought to a conclusion, by a sermon preached in the afternoon by the Rev. John Spurgeon, and a public meeting held in the evening.

At the close of a brief address from Mr. Gill, in which he was able to report that the chapel, which had been erected at a cost of 7,500*l.*, was in less than six years after its opening out of debt, and that nearly four hundred members had joined the communion of the church during those twelve years, with steady increase and progress of the various educational and benevolent institutions in connection with the congregation, Mr. Richardson, on behalf of the church and congregation, presented Mr. Gill with a very handsome silver-plated epergne, with dessert-stands to match, and an elegant antique enamelled clock. The meeting was then addressed by the Rev. John Beazley, the John Pulling, the Rev. John Spurgeon, the Rev. J. B. Pike, the Rev. J. Richards, the Rev. T. Wood, and the Rev. H. Hercus, who warmly expressed their appreciation of Mr. Gill's labours both as minister and pastor, and their regret at his leaving the town.

UPTON CHAPEL, LAMBETH-ROAD.—On Tuesday last very interesting services were held in the above place to recognise the Rev. John Daniel Williams as the pastor of the church and congregation. Tea was provided in the schoolroom, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The company numbered from two to three hundred persons. After tea a public meeting was held in the chapel, presided over by J. Sanders, Esq., senior deacon of the church. Mr. Williams having addressed the meeting, the Rev. T. Davies, D.D., president of the College, Haverfordwest, delivered an address on the elements of ministerial strength. Portions of Scripture were read, prayers offered, and congratulatory speeches delivered by the Revs. A. Mursell, W. Howieson, F. Trestrail, G. D. Evans, R. Berry, and M. G. Murphy.

SOUTH KENSINGTON.—On Tuesday week the memorial stone of the new Baptist chapel in Cornwall-gardens, South Kensington, was laid by James Harvey, Esq., treasurer of the London Baptist Association. Above twenty ministers of various denominations were present, all of whom expressed their great interest in the new undertaking, and their esteem for the pastor, the Rev. Samuel Bird, who has laboured in the district for many years with the greatest perseverance. After the ceremonial, the Rev. W. Brook delivered an admirable address. There was subsequently a well-attended tea and public meeting, J. H. Tritton, Esq., presiding. The Rev. S. Bird made a short statement of facts, and the meeting was subsequently addressed by Revs. W. G. Lewis, G. Carlyle, M.A., W. Statham, J. Bigwood, Arthur Mursell, B. Bird, C. Winter, H. Cocks, T. Phillips, and also by S. B. Pattison, Esq., and J. J. Clark, Esq., treasurer to the building fund. The chapel, when finished, will be a beautiful and commodious structure, will occupy an admirable central position when the roads in the neighbourhood are completed; and is likely to be completed early in October. The present outlay is 4,000*l.*, but the total cost will be nearly 6,000*l.* About 300*l.* was subscribed during the day.

RETIREMENT OF THE REV. JOHN ADEY.—On Wednesday last week the religious services in connection with the retirement of the venerable John Adey from the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Bexleyheath, were celebrated. A large gathering of friends from various parts assembled, many of whom had known the aged minister in his palmiest days. In the afternoon a sermon was preached by the Rev. Newman Hall. A tea-meeting was held in the schoolroom, when about 300 sat down. In the evening the friends reassembled in the chapel, under the presidency of Daniel Pratt, Esq. There were about thirty ministers present, among whom were the Revs. Charles Gilbert, J. De Kewer Williams, B. H. Kluht, J. B. Pike, J. Richards, T. Tuffield, J. S. Pearsall, J. Stuchbery, W. Frith, B. Price, G. Wilkins, J. Beazley, J. Pulling, S. Cowdy, H. Cresswell, &c. The chairman referred to his relationship to the retiring minister, and spoke of the many benefits which he and others had received in connection with Mr. Adey and his ministry. He specially alluded to his forty-nine years of labour as a minister, speaker, and author. Mr. Adey, in a tender and touching address, adverted to the leading events of his ministerial life. Mr. G. M. Smith, in a complimentary address to Mr. Adey, said he had very great pleasure in presenting to him, on behalf of many friends in many places, a somewhat substantial testimonial. Mr. Smith here handed a bank-book and a purse, containing the proceeds of a subscription, which amounted in the whole to about 225*l.* He also handed a number of letters, from the Rev. T. Binney and others, which contained testimonies to the personal worth and labours of the venerable minister. Mr. Adey, who was much affected, said he was thoroughly astounded at the largeness of the amount; and he was sure they would believe him when he said that he was truly grateful. Several ministers and friends addressed the meeting, and in various ways assisted in the services of the day, which will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be present.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL.—An immense gathering of teetotallers and temperance societies was held in Lord Carlisle's Park, at Castle Howard, on Friday, and comprised most of the abstainers of the North and East Ridings. It was computed that in the afternoon fully 10,000 persons were present. Among the speakers was Mr. E. Grubb, of Rotherham, who attended as a deputation from the United Kingdom Alliance, and who advocated the Permissive Bill, and called upon the assembly to vote for no man at the next election who would not go for it. On a vote being taken a forest of hands was held up for the bill, and none against it.

Correspondence.

DENIAL OF THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE CHURCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Your readers may remember a sharp passage in the Upper House of Convocation a short time ago, on the merits of a serial edited by the Rev. Charles Voysey, B.A., Incumbent of Healaugh, entitled, "The Sling and the Stone." This monthly contains select sermons preached by the editor, and as he ranks now as a sort of oracle with the deistical party among the clergy and the laity, his publication has come to have a considerable circulation. This is not the place to argue Mr. Voysey's doctrinal position. But that such teaching as his should be given, every week, in the pulpit of a National Church calling itself *Christian*; that a bold attack should be made every month, through the press, upon every doctrine that goes to make up "the bone and sinew" of Christianity; that the leader in this onslaught should be a beneficed clergyman, who solemnly covenanted with the State, on taking orders, to teach every article of the faith which he seeks to destroy; and that this determined sapping and mining should be carried on for years under the very nose of the Archbishop of York, without the offender being brought under discipline—is surely a crowning proof of the moral confusion of the Church, and the legal weakness of her rulers.

I have examined Vols. I. and II. of "The Sling and the Stone," and have now before me Part VII. of Vol. III. In preceding Parts the Evangelical doctrines of the Atonement, Regeneration, and the Inspiration of Scripture, have been smited at and set aside as miserable illusions. The title of the discourse beginning at page 131, Vol. III., is "The Uselessness of Miracles"; and the object of the writer is to show that there is no reason to believe the narratives of the miracles to be true, and that even if they were performed with a view to produce conviction in the minds of the people who witnessed them, they were "a signal failure." Here are the author's own words:—

"I frankly admit that I cannot discover any satisfactory evidence that they [the narratives] are not fictitious." "The time has gone by for asserting that they must be true because they are found in the Bible. We require evidence of a totally different character to that which satisfied the past ages of the Church. *We do not even know who wrote the Gospels.* We have, therefore, no evidence as to whether the writers possessed sufficient proof of what they recorded, or even *whether their minds were properly qualified to weigh such evidence as might come before them.* . . . On comparing the gospels together we find . . . absolute and direct contradictions which prove that the two conflicting accounts cannot be both of them true. . . . At the time when John's gospel affirms Jesus to be turning water into wine . . . the gospel of Matthew affirms Him to be in the wilderness alone and fasting. . . . Did the miracles of [Jesus] carry conviction that He was a superhuman being? We answer, *emphatically, No!*"

The next article is on "The Raising of Lazarus," and, according to the principles laid down in the article going before, the aim throughout is to affirm the incredibility of the story. "How," says Mr. Voysey, "do you prove that God has written or inspired men to write these records of miracle? I cannot prove it myself; I wait for you to prove it to me, if you affirm that they are really God's words. It will not do for me to take your word for it or the Church's word, or any other human and fallible authority for it. *I say there is no sort of proof that God wrote the accounts of miracles or inspired any one to write this story of Lazarus' resurrection.*"

. . . *Less and less importance is being attached to miracles.* When I was younger they were considered to be the very basis of Christianity. Now men see that what is true in Christianity will live whether there have been miracles or not. The evangelist makes our Lord say, 'I knew that thou hearest me always, but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou has sent me.' . . . I do not believe Jesus Christ ever descended into such petty pretences as are involved in this made-up speech. *The writer of this tale must have been strangely destitute of natural affection or of any proper belief in the life to come, if he could think that Christ in raising Lazarus had done him any kindness. If Lazarus were really raised, it was either a cruelty to him or an injustice to us.*"

In another place Mr. Voysey, in referring to the text, "He that believeth shall be saved, &c.," says that it must have been put in by self-seeking priests who wished to win the people under their influence by bribes and threats. As a sign of the times, these volumes are worth looking at, however we may grieve for their mischievous influence. How long is our understanding to be insulted by solemnly mouthed declarations by the bishops, that on their Church depends the spread of the true faith, while it is a nest in which are daily being hatched infidel clergymen on the one hand, and Romanist perverts on the other?

M.

TEETOTALLERS AND THE COMING ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with much interest in your paper the correspondence on the above subject. I en-

tirely concur with Mr. Jacob and Mr. Youngman that the temperance men of the country have a duty to perform at the coming election, and I have every confidence that they will rise to the dignity and importance of the occasion. With all respect to Mr. Griffith, in whose sincerity I heartily believe, I am utterly at a loss to see how the temperance men of Derby can vote for a brewer. That is entirely out of the question. I cannot see how a teetotalter, who has any regard for consistency, can by his political action help to sustain the liquor traffic.

I have been for twenty years a disciple of Edward Miall, yet I would, notwithstanding, at the present crisis forego my Liberal politics, if by so doing I could help to return a Permissive Bill man. The Irish Church question is virtually settled. It is utterly chimerical to imagine that the majority of sixty will be reduced at the ensuing election which is to be conducted upon an extended basis.

When the Irish Church question is settled there will come the Ballot, and after that the Suffrage in Counties, and then the Disestablishment of the English Church; and as we are now asked to forget our temperance principles at the hustings, so we shall be likely to be urged to take the same course for the next ten years. I hope my Permissive Bill brethren will not listen to this advice for a moment.

The Permissive Bill men are chiefly among the Liberals, and if the great Liberal party are wise and wish to maintain unity in their camp, they will bring forward Permissive Bill candidates.

The correspondent who writes from "Dresden" seems to be a sort of antediluvian teetotalter, who ought to have lived before the Flood. He seems to think the Permissive Bill tyranny. I hope in your next he will explain to us what he means. For if it be tyranny for two-thirds to coerce the one-third, surely it is greater tyranny for the one-third to coerce the two-thirds. If one-third, while demanding that the sale of liquor ought to be continued, could and would take *all* the sad and horrible consequences of the trade upon themselves, then the two-thirds would have no ground of complaint; but for a minority to call for the existence of this traffic, and saddle a larger portion of the consequences upon the two-thirds, is unreasonable and unjust. The Permissive Bill is a *liberal* measure. The inhabitants of a parish *ought* to be consulted before a liquor shop is opened; and to open one against the will of the inhabitants is not liberal, but oppressive and unjust. I rejoice to know our "Dresden" friend is in a very, very small minority, and that the teetotalters are few and far between who believe that the drink is bad, but the traffic in it is good. He may tell us that the way to bring the traffic down is to abstain from the drink; but "it is a contradiction in morals to expect a people to be virtuous enough to abstain, so long as it is vicious enough to legalise 140,000 public-houses and beer-shops, the great temptation and incentive to drunkenness." With regard to obscene prints, our friend from "Dresden" should remember that the Government does not prohibit the manufacture of obscene prints, but only the sale. Suppose 140,000 houses were at once opened for the sale of such prints, and it is certain the supply would create a demand. It is so with the drink, and wherever the sale of drink is stopped the inhabitants are quite contented, and the demand ceases, as at Saltaire, Bessbrook, and a hundred other places.

Wishing success to the Noncon.,

I am, yours truly,

Hull, July 3, 1868.

N. FYSH.

[It seems to us that the discussion of this subject is now exhausted, and must be considered as closed.—ED. Noncon.]

Messrs. Allen and Co. have in the press, and will publish in a few days, "The Journal of the Voyage of the Galatea round the World, under the Command of the Duke of Edinburgh," illustrated by several sketches of scenes and incidents described in the journal.

THE HARVEST.—Mr. James Sanderson writes to the *Times*:—"The prospect of an unusually early harvest has been maintained. A fine field of Canadian oats belonging to Mr. Smith, near Stamford, was cut on the 26th of last month. So far north as the northern extremity of Northamptonshire common peas were cut and carried in June, while in several counties wheat harvest will commence next week. It is to be regretted that, with respect to the yield of the cereals generally, the results will not be equal to the brilliant promise which the aspect of the crops up till the 1st of June warranted. The unprecedented drought—no rain, accompanied with excessive heat—has adversely affected all crops on light soils. On shallow surface soils incumbent on gravel or "stonebrash," wheat has suffered severely. On the other hand, wheat on wheat soils—loam, drained clay, and fen—is remarkably good. During the last few days I have walked through several thousands of acres of wheat on the deep soils of South Lincolnshire, and more magnificent crops I never witnessed. Taking the wheat crop generally, something very unusual must occur to prevent its yield being very much over average. Of all the cereals barley has suffered most from the drought, and, under the most favourable circumstances, its yield must be twelve bushels per acre under average. Oats will also be under average; beans, average; peas, fully average. Pasture land is severely scorched, and much of it, even should rain come at once, cannot recover this season."

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday, Lord MALMESBURY moved a vote of thanks to Sir Robert Napier, late Commander of her Majesty's forces in Abyssinia; to Commodore Heath, who had the conduct of the naval operations; to Major-General Staveley, Major-General Russell, and Brigadier-General Merewether. The noble lord also eulogised the Duke of Cambridge for the efficient co-operation he had rendered. Lord Russell seconded the motion, which was supported by the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Ellenborough, Lord Derby, and other peers, and was unanimously carried.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

An extraordinary scene took place in connection with this measure. In committee Lord BRANCHAMP moved an amendment, striking out the alterations which the select committee of the House of Commons had made in the plan recommended by the Royal Commissioners. Lord RUSSELL protested, in vigorous language, against the conduct of the Government in first agreeing to the appointment of a select committee, and then in endeavouring to set aside its recommendations, and the accepted decision of the House of Commons. The LORD CHANCELLOR contended that the Government was not bound by the decision of the committee; but both Lord HALIFAX and Lord RUSSELL accused them of bad faith, and the latter declared that, as he could not be a party to such proceedings, he would leave the House. Accordingly Lord Russell, accompanied by over a dozen peers, walked out of the House. Lord Branchamp and the Government appeared to be taken aback by this spirited demonstration; and ultimately the matter was postponed.

Their Lordships also adjourned at five minutes to nine o'clock.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

On Friday, Lord MALMESBURY, referring to the discussion on the previous evening respecting the Boundary Bill, vindicated the Government from the charges of unfairness which had been made, and read a letter from Mr. Disraeli explaining that his statement in the House of Commons that the bill was "settled" referred only to its progress through that House. Lord Malmesbury condemned the withdrawal of the leaders of the Opposition from the House because an amendment had been moved, as a childish exhibition of temper which there was nothing to justify. For the sake of avoiding delay in finishing the Reform Bills and preparing for a dissolution, he appealed to Lord Branchamp not to press his amendment. Lord RUSSELL denied that there had been any disrespect towards the House; it was with the Government, and not with the House, that the question arose; and if he and his friends had been disrespectful to the Ministry, the peers belonging to the latter were still more disrespectful to their chief, seeing that they ignored his declarations and apparently did not care a farthing for what he had said or done. He quoted Bentham's remark with satisfaction—that it should be the object of Parliament to make Governments uneasy; he was happy in having contributed to that result on this occasion. Lord BRANCHAMP, yielding to Ministerial solicitations, withdrew his motion, but took the opportunity of denouncing the complaint of the Opposition as "the most contemptible mare's nest ever trumped up in that House." The Duke of MONTROSE explained that the imputations of the Liberal peers amounted simply to a charge of falsehood against Mr. Disraeli; if they were honourable men they would at once get up and apologise. Lord SALISBURY, interposing as a peace-maker, remarked that though he had been told he would find the atmosphere of the House one of temperate, calm, and dignified serenity, he found himself in even a warmer latitude than the House of Commons. It was evident that Mr. Disraeli's pledges, however binding as between him and the House of Commons, were not recognised by the Ministers in the Upper House, and he suggested to his fellow peers to pass over the question as not in their jurisdiction. The LORD CHANCELLOR humorously observed that the practice of one side walking away and leaving the other in possession whenever any warm dispute arose was useful as a safety-valve. To which Lord GRANVILLE retorted that at any rate it had been successful in this case, and that on this very bill Ministers had absented themselves from the House of Commons. Lord DERBY brought the scene to a close by declaring that in all his experience he had never witnessed in that House so much personal virulence and such persistent misrepresentation.

THE COLENSO CASE.

Lord CARNARVON then called attention to a despatch written by the Colonial Secretary on January 30th, 1868, prohibiting any persons in Government employ from taking part in the consecration of a new bishop in opposition to Dr. Colenso, which prohibition was subsequently modified by a second despatch of May 23rd; but he had been informed that various persons had suffered by the withdrawal of Government aid in consequence of their refusal to acknowledge Dr. Colenso as their bishop. The Duke of BUCKINGHAM repudiated all responsibility for any such acts of oppression as those alleged to have been committed in the colony, although he thought that salaried officers of the Crown had been properly recommended not to make themselves partisans in the unhappy dispute that prevailed in the colony. After a brief conversation, the formal motion for the production of the despatches was agreed to.

COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

Lord RUSSELL moved that the House go into committee upon the Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill, which he believed would practically be a measure of total abolition, and as such calculated to satisfy Dissenters without injuring the Church.

To the first clause the Government agrees, and therefore in principle the prayer of Dissenters is, in fact, complied with. The object of the House of Commons was to distinguish between ordinary payment and payment compelled by Act of Parliament, in which latter case all will agree payment should continue, because such payments are not properly Church-rates, but are equivalent to commutation of tithes. There are some other cases which may be doubtful, and, no matter what arrangements we may make, it is impossible that we can absolutely prevent disputes. All that we can do is to reserve Church-rates which are really commuted tithes, and to take our chance as to any disputes that may arise; and as to the necessity of future legislation, which is not unlikely to arise, especially as there are no less than 700 Acts of Parliament, some of them of a very difficult and intricate nature, in which Church-rates are mentioned. So much with regard to that portion of the bill which relates to the abolition of compulsory Church-rates. The other part of the measure relates to voluntary contributions for the repair of the fabric and for the other purposes for which rates have been levied. Now, the bill allows vestries to continue the making and receiving of rates, the only difference being that the power of compelling payment is taken away. A vestry may decide that a certain sum is required, and persons may voluntarily pay at a certain rate in the pound. I think that in this respect the select committee have made an improvement, for they retain the vestry, the name and powers of which are well known; and I can conceive that in numerous parishes where Church-rates are at present made, no great change will occur in consequence of the absence of compulsion. Things are far more likely to go on as at present under these circumstances than if a new body were constituted, as was proposed by the other House. Then there is a clause empowering the incumbent and two householders, one appointed by the patron and one by the bishop, to act as trustees and receive any bequests, donations, or contributions for ecclesiastical purposes, which funds they may hand over to the churchwardens to be applied to such ecclesiastical purposes as they may specify. That is a provision which will come into operation in some cases, but I think that the Church Building Society or the churchwardens will generally apply the contributions they may receive. The noble and learned lord on the woolsack has given notice of a further clause, requiring the trustees to lay before the vestry an annual statement of their receipts and expenditure. Upon the whole this is a bill which fulfils its object, for while abolishing compulsory rates it empowers the vestry to make voluntary rates, and it also empowers trustees to receive contributions. As to its general effect it is, I trust, the settlement of a controversy which ever since 1833 or 1834 has given rise to much illwill and litigation, and therefore the termination of such a dispute is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

The Marquis of SALISBURY complained that the select committee had struck out several of the provisions which had been originally in the bill for the protection of the Church. For instance, the provision by which a Nonconformist churchwarden was restrained from administering the voluntary rate, and for the compulsory collection of the contribution when once promised to the rate.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said the object of the committee was to affect the existing parochial machinery as little as possible, so that in many parishes the Church-rates might go on just as they now did, although without the power of enforcing the payment. The clauses which the noble marquis regretted were plausible in appearance, but there would be a great risk that the whole system would fall to the ground if there was too great a disturbance of the existing system by drawing a too rigid line between churchwardens and Dissenters, and even compel those favourably disposed towards the Church to separate from it.

My noble friend (the Marquis of Salisbury) referred to the clauses which came up from the House of Commons. I quite agree with him as to the plausibility of some of those clauses. For instance, nothing can be more plausible than to say, "Don't let any one who does not pay Church-rate vote either as to the expenditure of that rate or as to the making of a new rate next year." Now, my lords, let us observe what the consequences of that would be. The noble marquis said that if you once had a Church-rate made then those who did not pay would be entitled to vote about a rate next year. But the effect of such a clause would be that you would furnish the strongest possible inducement to those who were opposed to the Church to resist the making of a rate the first year. (Hear, hear.) As the clause stands now a strong Dissenter would say:—"If you are going to make a Church-rate which cannot be levied coercively against me, I shall have an opportunity of appearing next year and objecting, and I won't mind interfering now." But if you tell him that if he allows a rate to be made this year he will be excluded for the future from voting on the question, he will say, "Now is my time. This is the only opportunity I shall have. I must get all my friends to come. Now is the time the battle must be fought, and fight we will to prevent the Church-rate being made." (Hear, hear.) Well, what would the next consequence be? Suppose you make your Church-rate the first year; there may be a hundred persons who ought to pay, but only fifty of them do pay. Next year instead of a constituency of 100 you get only fifty. The fifty make a new rate, and twenty fall off and do not pay. The third year you get a constituency of thirty, and perhaps ten of them won't pay. Thus by degrees you get to a constituency so small and ridiculous that the thing must die out. (Hear.) In fact, the whole course of things I have described is so new and so contrary to experience that

the moment you begin to work it in a parish it would be opposed because it was a new system. There was another provision in the bill as it came down from the House of Commons to this effect, that an action at law might be brought against persons who upon the making of a Church-rate held out a promise to pay and would not. I, for one, expressed my own opinion against that clause in committee. I believe, coming down, as you are now obliged to do, to the voluntary system, the working of it depends entirely upon your doing nothing which would have an alarming effect upon those who are asked to come in and accept the voluntary system. If, therefore, you speak of reserved actions at law, I am greatly afraid you will frighten many persons, who will say, "No doubt compulsory Church-rates have been abolished, but churchwardens may go to law with us if we promise, and therefore we will keep away from the vestry altogether." Now that this is a reason of which your lordships may judge, but it was one which influenced me in suggesting that the clause as it came from the House of Commons should be omitted. The only other point in the bill as it came from the House of Commons which was different from the bill in its present shape was as to the mode of treating churchwardens. In the bill as it came from the other House, if a churchwarden did not pay the rate there was a power to elect a treasurer in his place, who was to have the power of disbursement over the rates collected. If this treasurer is to be elected by those who pay the Church-rate, you run exactly into the danger I have attempted to describe; you have a diminishing constituency, which may never be called into existence, and you introduce a new officer altogether unknown to the parochial system.

The Earl of DERBY would not oppose the motion, though he still retained his objections to the bill; but as their lordships had accepted the principle, he hoped the bill would at last satisfactorily settle this question. With respect to the clauses struck out by their lordships' committee, he quite agreed with the noble marquis.

Clause 8 provides that no defaulter shall have the opportunity of speaking or of raising any objection or discussion as to the mode in which Church-rates shall be applied in the year during which he is a defaulter. But I think that principle ought to be carried further. This is to be a voluntary rate, levied by a voluntary machinery. If so, surely the persons who pay the rates are the persons who should say whether the rates should or should not be levied. If persons object to rates, and have thrown the charge upon their fellow parishioners, surely they ought not to have the opportunity of saying next year whether a similar charge shall or shall not be thrown upon those who have borne the charge in the last year. If the measure is a voluntary one, I think it ought to be left to Churchmen alone to say whether the rates should be levied or not. I confess that, clear as my noble and learned friend usually is, I do not understand the force of his argument when he says that if you restore the clause as it came from the House of Commons, you will furnish an inducement to persons to abstain from paying the rates.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I did not say that it would be an inducement to abstain from paying the rates, but that it would be an inducement to persons unfriendly to the Church to come forward the first year and prevent the Church-rate being made, because if they succeed in that, the working of the system will have no beginning. (Hear.)

The Earl of DERBY: I misunderstood my noble and learned friend, and indeed it is not always easy to hear what passes in the House. But what he said was that, year after year you will have persons refusing to pay, so that gradually the non-payers will absorb the payers. Then my noble and learned friend assumed that no person has a right to qualify himself by payment; but, as I understand it, in each year during which the Church-rate is levied, it will be demanded from each occupier, Churchman or Dissenter. It is perfectly open to anybody to refuse to pay; but though defaulters will be deprived of a voice in the expenditure, still, upon paying the rates when demanded, they may be restored to all the rights of Churchmen. It seems to me that this is the only effectual mode of dealing with the question. On the other hand, I confess that I do not lay much stress on the argument that Dissenters may be induced to put a stop to the machinery for levying a rate, more especially as we are told that this is a bill for satisfying the Dissenters.

The Archbishop of York approved the changes effected by the committee to which the bill had been referred. He said:—

I am in favour of a policy of greater generosity and of assuming that Dissenters will not go to the vestry to discuss rates and expenditure which do not affect their pockets, and that Churchmen will be elected as churchwardens. (Hear, hear.) I believe that that will be the case in a majority of parishes. With regard to the exclusion of all those who do not pay rates, I doubt the policy of ticketing them as defaulters in this way when their non-payment may have arisen from want of money. There, again, I think, the generous policy is the right one. (Hear, hear.) To admit defaulters to the vestry, and abide by any little exceptional trouble they may thus occasion, will, I think, be a smaller evil on the whole than to adopt this rate-paying qualification as a test of being a Churchman, and to recognise Churchmen only from the fact of their going to the vestry. (Hear, hear.)

Lord LYVEDEN could not understand how any bill could more effectually abolish compulsory Church-rates than that did.

If your lordships had passed the bill as it was introduced from the other House, you would have got rid of Church-rates, but you would also have established a system so complicated that it would have occasioned as much offence to Dissenters as the existing law. I am glad to compare the altered tone of many of your lordships now with that manifested when I brought forward a bill in 1864. I was then met by cries of "No surrender!" and the "Church in danger!" which have not been raised on this occasion. The attitude of many noble lords was completely changed, and I cannot help thinking that the tone adopted by the right rev. and most rev. prelates, as well as by the noble lord on the woolsack, will do more for the benefit of the Church than any other they could have taken. The willingness to concede will be gladly welcomed by those who

hitherto have said, "I will give nothing to the Church under compulsion; but I will gladly do anything I can for the Church if the matter be left to my own free will." There are many Dissenters who are in the habit of regarding the Church as part of the parish, and who will not let it go down if their free-will offerings can sustain it. Everyone will acknowledge that the compulsion and prosecution in favour of religion have always done most for the compelled and prosecuted. On the other hand, religion gains by concession, as the Church will do in this instance.

The Bishop of Oxford denied that Church-rates were any grievance, or that it was persecution to exact them. However, the principle of compulsory payment had been given up, but he objected to some of the alterations made by their own select committee in the Commons' Bill, and he should propose some amendments.

First, as to the question concerning the settling of future rates by those who have not paid the last. The noble and learned lord on the woolsack seemed to think that it would be a provocation to Dissenters to go and object to a voluntary Church-rate being made if those who have not paid the rates would not be parties to settling the way in which a new voluntary rate should be made. The bill that contained that clause was a compromise and a compact between the Dissenters in the House of Commons, and the representatives of the Church of England there. It was most thoroughly considered by the Dissenting members of the House of Commons, who, I must say, in this matter seem to have kept faith in the most praiseworthy manner with those who had the management of this bill, and they agreed that it was a clause to which Dissenters had not any right to object. Neither do I think it is possible to say they have. Any person can come again into the voluntary Church-rate vestry by paying his own share of the rate for the year past; he does not lose any right; it is not that he must pay it now or never. At any time he can join that body which settles whether there shall or shall not be a voluntary rate by paying a subscription equal to the amount of the last rate. The main objection always taken to Church-rates has been the compulsion and not the amount. Those who objected to pay them have often said they would willingly give double the amount as a free gift, but they objected to the power to compel them to pay anything. That is entirely taken away by the bill, and therefore there is no temptation to come the first time and object to the starting of the machinery. On the contrary, their representatives in Parliament have agreed to start it, and I think the probability is that, receiving this as a sacrifice on the part of the Church, and gratified that it has given up the power of compulsion, they will be more ready than others to start the new machinery fairly. But the objection that it is new machinery I deny, for in nineteen cases out of twenty the vestry will be precisely the same, and the rate will be made as before, with this one difference, that the payment of it cannot be enforced. The transition from the existing to the future legal state is, therefore, a simple matter. I believe the vestry will be an increasing rather than a dying-away constituency, especially in country parishes, where farmers will not like to be left out. But suppose the number of payers diminishes every year, you will realise a state of inanition just as you would if opponents prevented the starting of the machinery. It does seem to me it is a fundamental error in the bill, as altered by the select committee, that it takes away the one thing which would work well. Whilst in the country parishes there would be very little change, how would the bill work in the towns where the rate has been refused? If the bill passes through committee I shall feel bound to move several amendments on the report being brought up. First of all, I shall move an amendment to restore clause 8 to its original shape. Then, after the clause which makes the churchwardens the sole administrators, I shall propose to insert a new clause, containing a proviso that in the event of one of the churchwardens being a person who refuses to pay the rate, a treasurer may be substituted in his place. I propose further to move that this bill shall not come into force till a fortnight after Easter in next year, and also that a provision shall be inserted empowering the churchwardens to recover by legal process the various amounts which persons have promised to contribute.

The Bishop of Carlisle said he should have been prepared to vote for the total rejection of the bill, but its principle having been adopted by the House, the best thing to be done now was to improve it as much as possible. With this view he should, on the report being brought up, move an amendment relating to the division of parishes into districts.

The House then went into committee on the bill.

At the end of clause 9 the following paragraph, proposed by the LORD CHANCELLOR, was inserted:—

The trustees shall once at the least in every year lay before the vestry an account of their receipts and expenditure during the preceding year, and of the mode in which such receipts have been derived and expenditure incurred; together with a statement of the amount, if any, of funds remaining in their hands at the date of such account.

Some other amendments having been agreed to, the bill passed through committee, and was ordered to be reported to the House.

The sitting was closed at twenty-five minutes past eight o'clock.

NOVA SCOTIA.

On Monday Lord STRATHEDEN presented two petitions from Nova Scotia praying for a repeal of the Confederation Act so far as it affected that colony. The Duke of BUCKINGHAM pointed out that the alleged grievances arose entirely from the course adopted by the first Canadian Parliament, and these had been completely removed by the action of the succeeding Parliament. The feeling in Nova Scotia was far from being unanimous against the Confederation; in fact, it was the feeling of a small majority. He pointed out the great advantages which Nova Scotia would derive by joining with her sister colonies. He deprecated any inquiry by commission, and urged that her Majesty's Government would do all that they could in a spirit of conciliation towards the province, and would use their influence in Canada

in favour of a similar policy. The Earl of CARNARVON hoped the House would reject the prayer of the petition. The discussion was continued by the Marquis of NORMANBY, who was against any commission, and by Lord Lyveden, Lord Lyttelton, and Lord Airlie, who were also opposed to it, while the Marquis of CLANRICARDE was in its favour. Lord RUSSELL briefly added that he thought all the representations of such a loyal colony deserved the gravest consideration. Lord STRATHEDEN declined to divide the House, and then withdrew his motion.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

The Boundary Bill passed through committee, but on its report being brought up, Lord RAVENSWORTH moved as an amendment that Jarrow should be added to the borough of South Shields. This led to a brief discussion, in which several peers took part. Eventually the amendment was pushed to a division, and being defeated by a majority of 19, the bill passed through committee.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of, and their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes to nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday the proceedings opened with the withdrawal of Mr. J. B. Smith's measure for the establishment of a metrical system of weights and measures. Mr. BERESFORD HOPE was beginning to discuss the measure, but was cut short by the Speaker.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES BILL.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Coleridge's Oxford and Cambridge Universities Bill, which has stood over since May 13, was then resumed.

Mr. POWELL opened (to almost empty benches) with a vigorous protest against the secularisation of University education.

Mr. G. DUFF, in support of the bill, asserted that it had in its favour the majority of the working elements of the Universities, and he should be ready to leave the question to the tutors and professors, but that the ultimate result rested in the hands of the country clergy. He encouraged Churchmen to accept the change by predicting that the culture and social influences of the Universities would inevitably convert a considerable proportion of the Nonconformists who were admitted to them. But his chief reason for supporting the bill was that it would liberate the Universities from ecclesiastical control, and he anticipated its ultimate success from a conviction that the liberal spirit of the age, with its freedom of inquiry, must triumph over the old mediæval semi-monastic ideal of a university.

Mr. BERESFORD HOPE divided the opponents of the bill into four classes—the Liberal Churchmen, the honest and singleminded Nonconformists (with both of which he sympathised), the hard and dry secularists (represented by Mr. Lowe), and the free-thinkers, for whom Mr. Duff had just spoken. To the bustling interference of the last school, which had alarmed Churchmen, and would also startle Dissenters when they understood its aims, he attributed the impossibility of hitting upon some compromise which would have remedied the grievance of successful Dissenting undergraduates. There were several modes in which this could be done without breaking in upon the Church of England government of the Universities. Admitting that the Church had hitherto had the monopoly of University education, he justified it by the success of the Universities in producing men of the highest eminence in science, literature, and theology. But, referring to recent reforms as a proof that the Universities were anxious to give all reasonable facilities to Dissenters, he appealed earnestly to the House to refrain from legislation for a time, and to leave them to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement for themselves.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE supported the bill as a step, but not all that was necessary, towards making the Universities national institutions, and dealt at length with the alleged difficulties in admitting Dissenters, particularly making much of the point that the dogmatic differences between the Church and Dissent are not greater than the discordances between various schools of Churchmen.

Mr. C. BENTINCK contended that the exclusion of half a dozen persons from fellowships in a number of years was no adequate reason for changing the whole University system.

A great deal had been done and would continue to be done to render access to the Universities easy to Dissenters. They were at perfect liberty to erect halls and colleges of their own, and it was quite possible that colleges might be founded where no religious tests would be required, while the old colleges would be maintained, as at present, for the benefit of the members of the Church of England and of the majority of the nation. With reference to the question whether the Church of England constituted a majority of the people, it was well known that the census of 1861 was by no means a fair criterion. Whenever the Dissenting body became aware that the census would in all probability give a fair representation to the Church of England, the hon. member for Leeds and those who were associated with him showed the most determined opposition to its giving any indication of the religious opinions of the people. But at all events it was impossible to deny that the great bulk of the intelligence and education of the country, as well as a large majority of those who wanted to send their sons to the University, did belong to the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) Dissenters, generally, belonged to the lowest class of society. ("No, no.") But even among Dissenters there were very few who would not be extremely glad to send their sons to the University

and to undergo the prescribed course of religious instruction if they could afford to pay for it. (Hear, hear.) The petitions which had been presented in favour of this bill, with the exception of those emanating from learned bodies, chiefly came from small Dissenting congregations, among whose members there were scarcely any who could by possibility avail themselves of the benefits of the Universities, even if tests were done away with. The bill was only part of a great projected system of disestablishment, disendowment, and confiscation, and he trusted the House would reject it altogether. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MELLY was one of those who had the disadvantage of not having received a University education; and he never regretted the circumstance more than at the present moment. He felt, however, that he might still hope to see his sons scholars of Oxford or Cambridge.

As a Unitarian, one of those small bodies of Dissenters to which the member for Whitehaven alluded, he must say he felt the present system of exclusion to be no mere sentimental grievance. No doubt he might send his sons to the Universities now, but what was the use unless they were allowed to win the prizes of scholarships and fellowships? They might be competitors in the University race, but could not win the silver snail. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for the University of Oxford (Mr. Beresford Hope) spoke in a somewhat disparaging tone of free thought and the spirit of inquiry; but he himself had always found them perfectly compatible with the highest and purest religious sentiment and the deepest reverence. He, therefore, as a Nonconformist, entirely repudiated the notion that his sons if sent to the University would, by exercising that freedom of thought and inquiry on which Protestantism was said to be based, contaminate that pure religious faith which was cherished there. There was another ground on which he desired that the young men from the North of England should be sent to the Universities. He had on a recent occasion been staying at an hotel in the North of England, where he was introduced into the smoking-room and eventually into the billiard-room, where his attention was called to seven young men there playing at billiards, and he was told these young men would inherit 4,500,000*l.*, and not one of them had had a liberal education. (Hear.) These men all belonged to that low and small sect so much disparaged by the hon. member for Whitehaven. Besides, if so much of the social position, wealth, and intellect really belonged to the Church of England, why should they be afraid of a few young men from the North of England going up to the Universities? Might they not convert them? Was not the beauty of their ritual, and the reverential spirit in which their whole system was conducted, such that these young men, if not converted, would at least strengthen their hands? He thought everything which tended to broaden the life of the new generation would do good. Above all, was it not important, looking to recent measures of enfranchisement, that their future legislators should have the best possible education which the country could afford? He hoped that the next Parliament, regarding this as a question of religious liberty, would use every means in their power to make the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge really national institutions. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HARDY's chief argument against the bill was that the conjunction in the same governing body of men of different religious opinions with men of no religion at all must lead to confusion and frequent collision, and ultimately to the dropping of religion as an item of education. But to purely secular education Dissenters were as much opposed as Churchmen.

The hon. member for Stoke-on-Trent complained that his co-religionists were shut out from a university education. He (Mr. Hardy) said that, whatever might be the principle that they laid down for the regulation of the Universities, the sons of Nonconformists would not be sent there. In a great number of the instances to which the hon. gentleman had adverted, the men referred to were men who by their industry and talent had raised themselves from a low condition, and had become men of large capital, but it often happened that by the time they had achieved that position their children were too old to be sent to the Universities. But in all cases where Dissenters had founded Universities they insisted on a denominational teaching.

Mr. WINTERBOTHAM remarked that they were only theological as regarded the clergy.

Mr. G. HARDY: But did the honourable gentleman mean to tell them that Dissenters were not particular in sending their children where certain opinions would be inculcated? His opinion was that Dissenters were as desirous to have dogmatic teaching as Churchmen themselves. He maintained that the Dissenters had no ground of complaint. Let them if they would come to the Universities, and have separate halls, let them come to obtain all the intellectual advantages which the Universities conferred, and if they told him that they were not allowed to have fellowships, which were the reward of intellectual merit, he replied that those fellowships were for a different object, and that they were not intended to be mere rewards of intellectual merit.

Recent self-reforms, he pointed out, would enable Dissenters to take full advantage of the Universities without invading the domestic system of the colleges, and for the reward of deserving Dissenting students he should prefer to draw upon endowments, especially founded for the encouragement of learning, than to accept a measure which must result in the secularisation of the Universities. Was it true that Nonconformists were excluded from the Universities? Why at the present moment there were many Nonconformists and even Roman Catholics attending the Universities. (Hear.) By passing this measure they would be handing over their sons at the immature age of seventeen or eighteen to those who might be free-thinkers, and who might endeavour to convert them to some soulless and godless theory, in place of their being educated in the spirit of the grand old University motto—*Dominus illuminatio mei.* (Loud cheers.)

Mr. E. A. LEATHAM ably supported the bill.

He said that the fellowships at the Universities reminded him of the feeding-box for pheasants, the lid of

which was so nicely balanced that birds of a particular weight could get at the food, while thrushes and sparrows might scratch and peck away as long as they liked without being able to get at a single grain. The feeding-box of the Universities was so admirably constituted that only birds of the ring-necked species, who believed in the Thirty-nine Articles, could get at the good things. ("Hear," and laughter.) The bill would either admit many or but few Dissenters to the privileges of the Universities. If it admitted but few, where was the danger of there being allowed to enter? and if it would admit many, where was the justice of excluding them? The right hon. gentleman said that to adopt this measure would be to introduce discord into the Universities, and would transform the colleges into places of speculative discussion. But the truth was that the Nonconformists were inside the Universities already. Either too much or too little had been done for the Nonconformists. They had been admitted to that House and to the highest offices of State, and therefore they ought to be permitted to qualify themselves for holding those high positions by availing themselves of the advantages offered by the Universities. It was said that the Church of England would be endangered by the passing of this measure, but the fact was that the Church of England depended, not upon any statute, but upon the convictions of one portion of the community and upon the assent of the other portion. When those convictions were changed and that assent was withdrawn, the Church could resist no longer, and those who opposed this measure were hastening that evil day, by parading the Church before the people as a grasping monopolist who had usurped for her own purposes the advantages offered by the Universities, the doors of which she shut in the face of one-half of the community. (Hear.)

Mr. NEWDEGATE contended that the bill was an attempt to narrow the education given at the Universities, by excluding from it the studies of Scriptural history and theology, and to degrade it to the level of the Nonconformists, whose representatives in the House were continually complaining of their own ignorance, and demanding that the education of the Universities should be reduced to their own level.

Mr. NEATE desired to call attention to the fact that the whole intellectual strength of the University of Oxford was fast passing, if it had not yet passed, into the ranks of those who were in favour of this bill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. COLERIDGE would not attempt to answer a good many of the objections urged against this measure by hon. gentlemen opposite, because those objections were urged rather against some creatures of their own imagination than against this bill, with which they could have no more to do than with the bill for the alteration of weights and measures which the House had that day been discussing.

It had, however, been argued again and again by hon. members opposite that by this bill it was proposed to take away from certain persons that to which they were entitled, and to give it to those who were not entitled to it. That argument was not tenable, because all that this bill proposed to do was to remove certain restrictions which were imposed by the Act of Uniformity passed in the time of Charles II. If the colleges had suffered grievously from the state of things which previously existed, and were without protection up to the time of the passing of the Act of Uniformity, there might be some force in the argument; but he could not understand how it could be contended with fairness, or by recollection of history, that the repeal of a statute passed in the time of Charles II. could imperil the religion of colleges which had existed for centuries before. (Cheers.) The bill would leave the colleges in precisely the same state as they were before that period; it simply removed a Parliamentary restriction, and left the consideration of these matters to the colleges themselves. He desired to correct an impression which his speech on a former occasion had conveyed to the mind of his right hon. friend the Home Secretary. He had not, as had been imputed to him, said that his right hon. friend had resorted to coarse and vulgar arguments. He could not have used that expression, because he always took care to give as much preparation to any remarks which he had the honour of addressing to the House as his time would allow. He certainly did think that one of his right hon. friend's arguments did appeal to coarse and vulgar prejudice, but that was a very different thing from saying that the arguments themselves were coarse and vulgar, and as he had not yet been, and he trusted never would be, guilty of such a breach of manners as to apply such words to any member of the House, so there was no one to whom he should be less inclined to say anything disrespectful than his right hon. friend the Secretary for the Home Department. (Cheers.) He candidly confessed that certain difficulties would arise after the passing of the bill which he was not prepared to meet. But that was not the way to argue the question. What ought to be done was to examine both systems as a whole, and to see on which side the advantage to the country preponderated. It was impossible to meddle or alter the existing system without in so doing committing some positive mischief; but the question really was whether the advantages were not so greatly in favour of the course proposed that, in spite of certain evils and difficulties which were likely to ensue, it was the proper and statesmanlike course to pursue. That was a broad and intelligible footing on which to place the question, and if that were done in this instance he for one had no fear of the result. (Cheers.)

The House divided, and the numbers were:—

For the second reading ..	198
Against it ..	140

Majority in favour .. 58

The result was received with cheers.

The bill was then read a second time, and its next stage was fixed by Mr. COLERIDGE for July 22.

Sir W. Gallwey's County Financial Boards Bill, and Sir C. O'Loughlin's Libel Bill, were withdrawn.

Several other bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

On Thursday the first business was the vote of thanks to the forces engaged in the Abyssinian expedition. Sir Robert Napier was present.

Mr. DISRAELI sketched in a graphic and animated picture the difficulties of what he described as the "greatest military enterprise of modern times," and touched in felicitous language on the military virtues by which they had been surmounted.—from the first landing of the force on a desolate shore until "the flag of St. George was planted on the mountains of Rasselas." Specially he singled out for eulogy in Sir R. Napier his foresight, sagacity, and patience, and, above all, the diplomatic ability with which he had moulded the native tribes to his purpose; reminding the House that this was not the first time he had received this honour, but that he had fulfilled the classic condition—"thrice happy is the man who has been thanked by his country." He paid next a glowing tribute to the endurance and good temper of the troops, which was cordially echoed by the House, summing it up in an emphatic declaration that "the disciplined force of man had never been more successfully asserted." The services of the navy also, and particularly of the Rocket Brigade, came in for their appropriate meed of praise, and Mr. Disraeli concluded by congratulating the country on the moral character of the expedition. Spite of the mocking incredulity of some of our foreign critics, we had asserted the purity of our purpose, and, in an age not altogether unjustly accused of selfishness and undue regard for material advantages, we had vindicated the higher motives of humanity. The expedition, he predicted, would add lustre to our name, and would beneficially influence the future history of the world.

Mr. GLADSTONE accepted the duty of seconding the motion as a rare privilege, and, echoing Mr. Disraeli's felicitous eulogy of the services of commander, officers, and men, he supplemented them by a graceful reference to the services of the Home Government, and particularly of Sir S. Northcote. By their original choice of a commander, by the unbounded confidence they had reposed in him, and by the liberality with which they had placed the resources of the country at his command, they had greatly conduced to the success of the expedition; but he praised them emphatically for the firmness with which they had confined it to its legitimate purpose. The complete military and moral success of this "tearless triumph" he attributed to the peculiar characteristics of Sir R. Napier, who had not only shown himself a consummate commander, but had remembered under all circumstances the duty of keeping unstained the honour of his country.

The motion was carried with enthusiastic cheering. Some hours were spent in committee on the naval estimates.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

At half-past ten the House, according to previous arrangement, took up the Registration Bill, and its committal was preceded by a lively and energetic protest against its whole policy from the Conservative benches. The first note was raised by Colonel BARTHELOTT, who expatiated on the absurdity of extending the franchise, and in the same breath passing a bill which would prevent thousands from getting on the register. Colonel MILLER enforced the same objection to the bill, but with even greater vehemence; and Mr. SMOLLETT, in his usual caustic vein, ridiculed the notion of meeting in December merely to decide whether Mr. Gladstone should cross from the left to the right side of the Speaker. Despite loud cries of "Question" from the Opposition, Mr. Smollett persisted in raking up the events of the session to point his taunt that nobody desired this interruption of the ordinary course but the satellites round Mr. Gladstone, who expected to come in with him; for the Liberal party, if they had not mistrusted their ostensible leader, could have changed the Government at the beginning of this session. Mr. HARDY replied by pointing out that there was no abridgment of the processes of registration, and the select committee had satisfied itself that no mischief could happen from shortening the revision. The House was cleared for a division, but the opposition was not pushed to this length, and the bill passed through committee without an amendment, except that clause 29 was struck out.

BURIALS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the consideration of this bill, Lord C. J. HAMILTON moved the omission of the third clause, which if retained would have the effect of excluding the Wesleyan Methodists from burial in churchyards where they were now usually buried. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill was considered and ordered for third reading.

A considerable number of bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past one o'clock.

METROPOLITAN FOREIGN CATTLE MARKET BILL.

On Friday the House met at two o'clock, and was engaged for five hours in discussing the Metropolitan Foreign Cattle Market Bill. Mr. GLADSTONE sided with the opponent of the measure, on the ground that its policy was doubtful, and that if adopted at all it should be applied to the whole country, and not merely to the metropolis. Mr. GOSCHEN objected to the bill because its tendency would be to lessen the supply of meat and raise prices. Mr. HENLEY and Mr. LOWE supported the bill, as a necessary precaution against the spread of the cattle plague. On a division 224 members voted against adjournment and only seventy-nine for it. The debate was continued, and Mr. CHEETHAM was speaking against the bill when the House stood adjourned.

At the evening sitting Mr. DISRAELI promised to consider the claims of the troops employed in the

New Zealand wars to a military decoration in recognition of their services. Among the topics discussed on going into committee of supply were the case of Mr. Pigott, convicted of a seditious libel, and the recent report of the Commissioners on Scotch Burgh Schools.

The Civil Service votes having all been passed, there was some skirmishing in regard to the issue of a writ for Bristol, which was moved by Mr. NEVILLE-GRENVILLE, and resisted by Mr. HOWE (chairman of the election committee), Mr. BERKELEY, who declared that in the present state of excitement at Bristol, an election would be productive of much mischief, and others. In the end the motion was withdrawn, and the House adjourned at a quarter before two o'clock.

REGISTRATION BILL.

On Monday the Registration Bill was read a third time and passed, after an emphatic warning from Sir G. BOWYER that, as it had been passed on insufficient information, its certain result would be a discredited Parliament and a second general election within twelve months.

CORRUPT PRACTICES BILL.

The House next went into committee on the Corrupt Practices Bill, and on clause 5, which transfers the jurisdiction in election petitions from the House to the Common Pleas, Mr. BOUVIERIE proposed, instead, to create a tribunal consisting of a committee of five members of the House to act as a sort of jury under the presidency of a judge; and to carry this out, by a subsequent clause he gave power to the Crown to appoint an additional judge to each of the three Superior Courts of Common Law. Sir R. COLLIER urged, as fatal objections to this scheme, that it did not secure a local and an immediate inquiry. The chief supporter of Mr. Bouvierie's plan was Mr. HENLEY, who thought that the advantages of a local inquiry were outweighed by the jury which the amendment secured. Mr. MILL, on the contrary, laid so much stress on a local inquiry that he was ready to accept the bill on the condition that the House should retain the power of resuming the jurisdiction if the experiment were not satisfactory. For this end he suggested that the bill should be limited to two years. Mr. GLADSTONE, though personally preferring, both to the bill and to Mr. Bouvierie's amendment, a plan contemplated by Mr. Ayrton (to institute preliminary inquiries by officials specially appointed, and to be called attorneys of the House of Commons), pressed the Government to facilitate the progress of the bill by accepting Mr. Mill's suggestion; but Mr. DISRAELI declined to give any opinion at present on the expediency of limiting the duration of the bill, though he promised favourably to consider it when it was proposed as a substantial amendment. Mr. Bouvierie's amendment, he intimated, would be considered as fatal to the whole principle of the bill. On a division there was a majority of 77 against it, and in favour of the bill—204 to 127.

The committee was occupied with the bill up to half-past ten o'clock, but no material amendment was made in it until clause 10, which sanctions the appointment of two election judges. Mr. AYRTON suggested that, instead of nominating two judges to be specially set apart for this duty, one judge should be added to each of the Common Law Courts, and election petitions should be tried indiscriminately by the general body of judges, according to a settled rota. Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY, Mr. KARSLAKE, Mr. DENMAN, Mr. Serjeant GASELEE, and others, supported this plan, and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in opposing it, pointed out that the remonstrance of the judges against having this duty imposed on them was not withdrawn, and hinted that the adoption of this scheme might imperil the bill. Mr. LOWE strongly protested against this line of argument. It was the duty of the House to create the best tribunal in its power, without reference to the protest of the judges, or to the possible action of the House of Lords. He strongly urged the Government, therefore, to consider their determination, and to commit the jurisdiction to the Common Law Bench, reinforced by the addition of three new judges. Mr. DISRAELI admitted that this might be the best course, but, remembering the effect of the judges' protest on the House of Commons, it was possible it might be equally powerful with the other House. It was therefore necessary to consider not so much what was best as what would be most likely to be carried; and, not being prepared to risk the success of the bill, he declined to assent to the suggestion.

On a division Mr. Ayrton's amendment to omit the essential portion of the clause was carried by a majority of 65—136 to 71.

Upon this Mr. DISRAELI moved to report progress, with the view of considering what could be done to meet the views of the House, but he added that he could not conceal from himself the great difficulties he had to contend with. The further progress of the bill was then adjourned until to-morrow.

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

The Army Estimates were the next business on the paper, but before going into Supply, Major ANSON interposed with an elaborate attack on the manufacturing department of the army, which he accused of gross waste, extravagance, misrepresentation, and even falsification of accounts. Sir J. PAKINGTON complained that Major Anson had given no notice of his most serious charge against the manufacturing departments; consequently he was unable to answer them on the spot. The Marquis of HARTINGTON held it to be impracticable to conduct the Government manufactories as private firms, and on that account chiefly he urged that Major Anson's charges against them should be strictly investigated. Mr. OTWAY, Sir G. Bowyer, and General Herbert made some observations on the same subject; Lord ELCHO, on Major Anson's behalf, offered

to submit his case to a select committee or any other inquisition. The practice of entrusting privates and non-commissioned officers with twenty rounds of ball cartridge in time of peace was mooted by Mr. HAYTER, and these preliminary discussions occupied the House until so late an hour that the Army Estimates were postponed until the next supply night.

IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.

The Earl of MAYO brought in the Registration Bill for Ireland, which, like the English Bill, is confined chiefly to the process of revision. It provides that the process shall be completed between September 8 and October 6, so that the lists shall be in the hands of sheriffs by the 1st of November. It also contains provisions for facilitating the making up of the supplemental lists of new voters, and the general result is that everything will be ready for a general election in Ireland about the same time as in England.

The House adjourned at a quarter to two o'clock.

THE RESCUED PRISONERS FROM ABYSSINIA.

The London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews held a meeting on Friday afternoon, on the occasion of a public prayer and thanksgiving for the safe return of their missionaries, the Rev. H. G. Stern, Mr. Rosenthal, and Mr. Flad. Freemasons' Hall was the scene of the demonstration, and the audience was large and select. Shortly before the hour for commencing, the Earl of Shaftesbury (who afterwards presided at the meeting), arrived, and he was taken into the anteroom, where the late captives and their wives, who were in attendance, were severally introduced. The three gentlemen are Germans, and have been engaged in mission work for many years under the auspices of the society. Out of the five and a-half years Mr. Stern was in Abyssinia, four and a-half were spent in captivity and in chains. He is nearly six feet high, and has a fine intellectual face, which is lighted by eyes of singular depth and power; his hair is now silver grey, having changed during his captivity, but his whiskers and moustache are jet black. All the company were very much bronzed, the colour approaching to an olive. Mr. Flad has spent fourteen years in Abyssinia, and, together with his wife and four children, seems to have had much better treatment than the others. He was only five weeks, he said, in chains. Mr. Flad is of medium height, thin, and has very much the appearance of an intelligent artisan. Mr. Rosenthal, who spent the same number of years in chains with Mr. Stern, is very short, and rather stout. They all seem to have been well treated in the matter of food, but complain of the suffering caused by their chains. Mr. Stern thought the shock which his nervous system had sustained was one from which, he was afraid, he should not recover for some time. Mrs. Rosenthal said she lost two of her children in Abyssinia, and has brought home one. Mrs. Flad has a family of four, all of whom have returned with their parents. Messrs. Flad and Rosenthal were agreed in thinking that for many years to come Abyssinia will be closed to mission work. The country, which has been in a disturbed state for many years, will now, by the death of Theodore, be more unsettled than ever. The two ladies accompanied their husbands to the platform. Their entry into the hall was the signal for very loud applause, the whole audience rising and cheering for several minutes.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, in the course of his speech, spoke of the bravery and endurance of the British troops, and paid a high tribute to the genius of Sir Robert Napier. At the same time, he attributed the extraordinary success which had attended the campaign to be due to the prayers offered on behalf of the missionary captives. (Cheers.) Mr. Stern had furnished him, since he entered the hall, with a further instance of the direct interposition of God. He told him (the noble chairman) that Theodore had said, if the British soldiers did not help him to win back his kingdom, all the Europeans should be killed. The king also spent the fourteen latest days of his life in constructing a road by which his soldiers were to have easy access to destroy the British, and by that very roadway our soldiers marched victoriously to the assault of Magdala. They had every cause for deep thankfulness in the marvellous escapes their missionaries had had, while he hoped they would take fresh courage in their work for the future. (Applause.)

Mr. STERN then addressed the audience. He said he could hardly realise the wonderful change that had taken place. About two and a-half months ago he was in chains in Magdala, and he was at that moment addressing an audience in London. He had been shut up in the hand of a cruel, merciless tyrant, but God's hand had delivered him. In all his troubles he was buoyed up by the firm, confident belief that God would not forsake him. When the British army came, they were happy in the thought that the struggle, whatever its termination might be, would be short, and the life of which they were tired and heartily sick, would quickly come to an end. Only one day before the troops arrived the King said he would water his valleys with the blood of the British soldiers. Now they might solve the enigma for themselves; let them get whatever testimony they liked, there was only one answer—God heard the prayers of His people, and sent deliverance. (Applause.)

Mr. ROSENTHAL spoke with so strong a foreign accent and in so low a tone that he was not distinctly heard in all parts of the room. He gave an account of some of the hardships through which they had passed, and also outlined the mission work in which they had all been engaged.

Mr. FLAD gave some interesting details about Theodore, and the terror which his acts inspired in the country. Speaking of the prospect of death which the captives had before them, he said it made a wonderful difference to die by one stroke of the sword, or by blows from ten thousand spears, or to be burnt with wife and children in a hut. Theodore killed all his Abyssinian captives; but his anger towards the British captives was smoothed down by an Almighty hand. The king died by the same pistol which Consul Cameron presented to him in the name of the Queen of England. Surely it was a long time to wait, four and a-half years; but, in God's time, the prayers of his children were accomplished. He hoped that the leaders of the expedition and all the soldiers might have their due reward in the kingdom of Heaven.

In the course of the proceedings prayer was offered by the Revs. Dr. Ewald, E. Auriol, C. J. Goodhart, and E. Carr. Amongst those present were Mrs. Stern and her two daughters, who were not with Mr. Stern in Abyssinia.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Monday morning, at 4.25, the Princess of Wales was safely delivered of a daughter, and every loyal subject of the Queen will be gratified at the announcement in the bulletin that her Royal Highness and the infant princess "are going on perfectly well." Telegrams were at once despatched to her Majesty at Windsor, to the King and Queen of Denmark, and to the principal crowned heads of Europe. Precisely at a quarter past twelve the Queen, accompanied by the Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse and the Princess Louise, arrived at Marlborough House on a visit to the princess. The Prince of Wales's family now numbers four, viz., Albert Victor Charles Edward, born January 8, 1864; George Frederick Ernest Albert, born June 3, 1865; Louise Victoria Alexandrina Dagmar, born February 20, 1867; and the princess as yet unnamed, whose birth formed the subject of congratulations at Marlborough House on Monday.

For the third time this season her Majesty on Friday paid a visit to Aldershot, and reviewed about 15,000 troops. The proceedings did not begin until late in the afternoon, and a sham fight which had been announced to take place was but partially carried out. There was, however, a march past, in which nearly all the men in camp took part. Her Majesty, who looked exceedingly well, was accompanied by the Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Christian, and Princess Louise. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, and Prince Teck, also attended the review.

Sir Robert Napier arrived at Dover on Wednesday evening, and was received with great honour. A town address was presented to him. On Thursday evening the gallant general paid a visit to the Queen, and returned to London on Friday, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen and the junior members of the Royal family will leave Windsor for Osborne this afternoon. Her Majesty will make an inspection of the Galatea (which ship is reported to be in magnificent condition) on the Friday following, and will, it is expected, leave Osborne for Germany on Tuesday, the 4th of August.

The visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to the Crystal Palace on Saturday was the occasion of a series of festivities of unwonted magnificence, and thirty thousand persons were present. The Duke was accompanied by the Prince of Wales and a distinguished party. Both Signor Mario and Mdlle. Adelina Patti took part in the concert; and the new song which has been composed in honour of the Prince was the signal for an outburst of enthusiasm which must have delighted his Royal Highness. The whole system of the fountains was put in operation, and late in the evening there was an unprecedented display of fireworks.

By command of the Queen a State ball was given on Wednesday evening at Buckingham Palace, to which a party of upwards of 1,800 was invited. The Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family were present.

The prorogation is expected to take place between the 20th and 25th inst., and the dissolution in the first week in November.

On Saturday Mr. Longfellow had the honour of an interview with her Majesty at Windsor Castle. On the morning of that day he favoured the artists of the London Stereoscopic Company with a series of sittings. On Thursday he was present at Harrow, on the speech day. One of his poems was recited.

The office of President of the Council of the London University College, which was rendered vacant on the death of Lord Brougham, has been conferred upon Mr. Grote, the eminent historian.

Mr. James Hannay has been appointed by Lord Stanley to the vacant consulship of Brest, and the appointment has received her Majesty's approval.

Mr. Goldwin Smith has just published a book advocating a thorough reorganisation of the University of Oxford.

The *Spectator* is informed upon seemingly good authority that Sir Stafford Northcote does not go to India, and the Viceroyalty is therefore open to competition. A strange rumour is at the same time afloat among Indians that Lord Stanley is willing to take the office, a rumour the *Spectator* is wholly unable to believe.

The Commander of the Forces in Abyssinia, accompanied by Lady Napier and his staff, will pay a visit to the Crystal Palace this day. There can be little doubt as to the character of the reception which

awaits the gallant general on this his first public appearance after his return to this country.

The Earl of Carnarvon has accepted the presidency of the Social Science Congress, to be held in Birmingham in September next.

It is intimated in the *Irish Times* (Conservative journal) that the commission appointed by the Government to investigate the relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland will commence its sittings immediately after the prorogation of Parliament.

Mr. Charles Brook, of Enderly Hall, formerly of Mettham, near Huddersfield, has offered to build and endow a convalescent hospital in connection with the Huddersfield Infirmary, at a cost of £30,000.

Mr. Disraeli has granted a sum of £50 from the Royal Bounty Fund to Mrs. Janet Hamilton, Langloan, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, a venerable authoress of remarkable character, in humble life, who, under the most disadvantageous circumstances, has given evidence of extraordinary talents, combined with high moral excellence and ardent loyal and patriotic feelings. Mrs. Hamilton, now in her seventy-third year, has recently lost her eyesight.

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 8, 1868.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords the Duke of BUCKINGHAM moved the second reading of a bill for the relief of the Consolidated Fund from an annual payment of 20,000*l.* for purposes connected with the Church of England in the West Indies. A discussion followed which, while it lasted, was of an unusually bitter character. Lord CARNARVON insisted that the case of Jamaica was perfectly parallel to that of the Irish Church. He said that in both the Established Church was the Church of the wealthy and the few; and that the Jamaica Suspensory Bill, introduced by the Government was identical with a similar bill which was brought forward last year by Mr. Remington Mills, and which was then described by Mr. Adderley as a measure ruinous to the Church. The LORD CHANCELLOR argued that, as the grant of twenty thousand pounds was a donation, and not an endowment, no question of disendowment or disestablishment was involved in the Ministerial policy. A somewhat irregular discussion ensued, in the course of which Lord KIMBERLEY elicited from the Duke of BUCKINGHAM that, although no application had yet been made to the colonies to provide for the support of the clergy, he had received communications to the effect that the colonies, out of their own resources, would provide for the ecclesiastical supervision of the most important sees in the West Indies. The bill was then read a second time.

The Irish Reform Bill was read a second time, and the Scotch Reform Bill a third time. Lord REDDALE moved an amendment, enlarging the boundaries of Glasgow, but, on going to a division, was supported by only ten peers.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of, and their Lordships adjourned at a quarter to eight o'clock.

The House of Commons devoted a morning sitting yesterday to disposing of the Public Schools Bill, but though the committee occupied the entire five hours, no amendment of any importance was made in the bill. The most important discussion took place on a clause which Mr. LOWE moved, to enforce the annual examinations by the inspector of education in reading, writing from dictation, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, and history. This proposal was very much criticised, and ultimately rejected by a majority of 56.

The evening sitting was mainly devoted to supply. There was, however, some brief preliminary discussion on the Metropolitan Foreign Cattle Market Bill, which Mr. DISRAELI said the Government had done their best to forward. They were determined to take every reasonable opportunity to carry it, and on the earliest opportunity he would fix some evening sitting for resuming the discussion.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past one o'clock.

The Princess of Wales and her infant daughter continue well.

The grand jury yesterday returned a true bill against Madame Rachel, but the trial was postponed on the application of Serjeant Parry, who, with Mr. Digby Seymour, has been retained for the defence.

In the French Chamber yesterday, the debate chiefly turned upon the proposal of the committee to reduce by a million the war estimates. Marshal Niel, the Minister of War, strenuously opposed this amendment. The Chamber decided, however, that it should be taken into consideration.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

There was a very small supply of English wheat on sale here to-day, but the samples were, for the most part, in good condition. All qualities met a very dull inquiry, at the recent reduction of 1*s.* to 2*s.* per qr. The show of foreign samples was extensive, and of fair average quality. Millers operated very cautiously and the few sales effected were at Monday's decline of 1*s.* to 2*s.* per qr. Low qualities of barley were cheaper to sell, but superior samples commanded late rates. The floating grain cargo trade was very quiet, but holders refused to make any great concession for wheat arrived. Spring corn afloat was generally unaltered. Business in malt seemed altogether suspended, and the quotations were quite nominal. Notwithstanding the late heavy importation, there was a good demand for oats.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1868.

SUMMARY.

On Monday the Princess of Wales gave birth to a daughter, and her Royal Highness and child are doing so perfectly well that the Queen does not deem it necessary to remain near London to watch over the invalid. Her Majesty's subjects will rejoice with her in this addition to her joys, and the domestic happiness of the Heir Apparent.

Parliament is now actively engaged in hastening its own dissolution. The Estimates are nearly all passed, and the Registration Bill has made its appearance in the Upper House, where the Scotch Reform Bill, after an hour's discussion, and without material alteration, has got through Committee, and the Irish measure has passed the same stage with still less debate. Lord Beauchamp, assisted by the Ministerial leaders, attempted last week to set aside the decision of the Commons, accepted by Mr. Disraeli, relative to the Boundary Bill; and Earl Russell, having protested in vain against this alleged breach of faith, headed the Liberal peers in walking out of the House. Their opponents laughed derisively at this unusual demonstration of disgust, but the ultimate result was satisfactory. Persuaded by the Earl of Malmesbury, Lord Beauchamp, on the following evening, withdrew his opposition to the Bill as it stood, after a very bitter discussion, which provoked from the Marquis of Salisbury the remark, that though he had been told he would find the atmosphere of the House one of temperate, calm, and dignified serenity, he found himself in even a warmer latitude than the House of Commons. Subsequent attempts to alter the Boundary Bill, being discouraged by the Government, were unsuccessful, and that measure has now passed its final stage.

Sir Robert Napier is the hero of the hour. This accomplished general arrived in England in time for the debate in the Commons on the vote of thanks to the forces engaged in the Abyssinian expedition, and listened in person to the high but deserved eulogiums passed on himself by the leaders of the House. We may rejoice with Mr. Gladstone in the moral success of this "tearless triumph," and hope with Mr. Disraeli that in an age not altogether unjustly accused of selfishness and undue regard for material advantages, we have vindicated the higher motives of humanity, and beneficially influenced the future history of the world. In both Houses the vote was passed with cordial acclamation. Sir Robert modestly bears his honours, which will not be exhausted in Parliamentary compliments, however much they may be prized. He is to be made an hereditary peer of the realm, with a handsome pension. This day with his staff the gallant general will receive a public welcome in the Crystal Palace.

The drought continues. Though there have been slight showers here and there, the almost daily expectation of a downpour of welcome rain has been doomed to disappointment. All the crops, except the wheat on heavy lands, are seriously suffering from the absence of moisture,

and the pastures are scorched up. The barometer remains at set fair, and the thermometer at so high a range, as to hasten the deliberations of Parliament, and act unfavourably on the temper of the House of Lords. If the harvest, in consequence of the prolonged drought, should not be so abundant as was at one time hoped, it promises to be early, and is likely to be got in in good condition.

The dinner given last week to Mr. Cyrus Field, the chief promoter of the Atlantic telegraph, was an event of remarkable and unique interest. It was presided over by the Duke of Argyll, and two Cabinet Ministers, Sir John Pakington and Sir Stafford Northcote, united with Mr. Bright, Lord Stratford and other distinguished persons, in expressing the most emphatic desire to draw closer the ties that unite us to Mr. Field's countrymen. The constant iteration of these sentiments of amity and friendship is not superfluous. They ever produce a prompt cordial response on the other side of the Atlantic. While the banquet was proceeding, congratulatory messages were exchanged with the Governors of Canada and British Columbia, and in response to one sent to Washington, Mr. Seward, on behalf of the President of the United States, expressed his cordial desire, "for perpetual union between the two nations." These pleasant expressions of good feeling will smooth the way for the final settlement of outstanding difficulties between the two countries, to which Mr. Reverdy Johnson, the new American Minister to England, will devote his energies on his arrival in London next month.

There have been hot discussions in the French Chamber on financial matters. The whole question is dealt with by our neighbours on a scientific principle, which we cannot and do not desire to imitate. "The Imperial Government," as the *Times* remarks, "regularly presents to the nation, not one Budget, but four Budgets; and even these are liable to the contingency of being succeeded by a fifth. There is the Ordinary Budget, the Departmental and Communal Budget, the Sinking Fund Budget, the Extraordinary Budget, and the Rectificatory Budget." The result, if not the aim, of this complicated arrangement is to hoodwink the French people, and evade the effective criticism of the Legislature. M. Thiers in denouncing such legerdemain spoke to not unwilling ears, and the growing feeling of impatience at the evasive conduct of the Government was expressed by M. Haentjens, a member of the majority, "I believe firmly," he said, "that these Budgets will not last. I shall vote for this one, but should they continue I shall vote against such madness." There are other signs of legislative opposition to the new Imperial armaments, and in deference to the strong and growing antagonism of his subjects to such burdensome and unproductive expenditure, the Emperor has granted the troops at the Chalons camp a long furlough.

The Austrian Government is manfully contesting the pretensions of Rome by word and deed. To the abusive jeremiad of Pius IX. and the incitements that have been offered to the clergy to break the recently adopted laws on marriages and schools, Baron Beust replies by emphatically protesting against the incomprehensible and unjustifiable interference of the Pope in the province of home legislation, and he throws upon the Court of Rome "the responsibility of having aroused religious passions which might create a deplorable conflict." Popular feeling sustains the Government, and in all parts of the empire the clergy, wherever they resist the law, are becoming unpopular. His "Apostolic" Majesty—we refer to the Kaiser, and not to the Pope—must be sorely tried by these events, but he remains faithful to his pledges as a constitutional sovereign.

THE BATTLE AGAINST BRIBERY.

Is the battle which the House of Commons is now waging to put down "corrupt practices at elections" a serious one, or is it only a sham fight? One cannot help asking the question, because it is impossible to put out of sight the fact that by far the greater proportion of the unprecedented amount of money illicitly spent at the last General Election came out of the pockets of members sitting in that House. They may have given it—some of them at least—unwillingly. They may have wilfully shut their eyes to the details of its appropriation—if tried by an Election Committee, every man of them would have been acquitted of all personal knowledge of, or complicity in, what was done by their agents or supporters—but is it not notorious that if from this time forth they and persons of their order withheld the cash, bribery at elections would soon languish, if not become extinct. They are responsible for the debasing

arts resorted to for obtaining Parliamentary honours, just as men who deliberately put fire into the hands of madmen are responsible for any acts of incendiarism which may therefrom ensue, or as men who land hogsheads of ardent spirits in the sight, and for the consumption, of a population of savages, are responsible for the resulting drunkenness and debauchery. Indeed, too many of the members of the House of Commons know that their only chance of election lies in a profuse employment of their wealth among their constituents. They have no other conspicuous qualification entitling them to a seat in Parliament. They paid their way. They would like to do so again. How, then, can a representative assembly, in which such men are numerous, be believed to be seriously intent on detecting and punishing "corrupt practices"?

Well, there is something to be said on the other side of the question. The Bill was brought in by the present Government, partly, it may be reasonably suspected, to stave off the Ballot—partly, because opulence, rapidly and recently acquired, is more generally associated with popular opinions, than opulence which is hereditary and has long been enjoyed—partly, because riches are ousting rank in the hotly-contested race for senatorial honours—partly, because seats are becoming a too expensive luxury for gentlemen of moderate means—and partly, because the country is becoming scared by the wide prevalence of corruption. Our own view is that the Government really meant, in the measure now before the House, to curtail the means of the plutocracy, as against the aristocracy. Hence, to the latter it leaves all the forms of intimidation unassailed, steadfastly refusing to frustrate them by the Ballot. The counties are not usually won by mere money, but by rank. Family influences used to count in swaying borough elections of a certain class. They are now simply bought, and the longest purse gets the seat. We surmise that Mr. Disraeli calculates, as perhaps he would be borne out by facts in doing, that in the long run the plutocrats in Parliament constitute a greater menace to "the country party" than is compensated for by any support they may occasionally render it, and that it is time to check the increase of their power. May not this account for the stringency of the Premier's Bill for the trial of disputed elections in those cases in which corrupt practices shall be alleged, and may he not, on these and similar grounds, really desire the success of his measure?

Then, it has to be further borne in mind that this is a moribund House of Commons—that a very considerable number of old members, having resolved on final retirement from public political life, are free to deal severely with illicit electioneering arts—and that, the current of feeling having set in towards purity, many will think it their interest to simulate more virtue than they actually possess? All things considered, we look upon the progress hitherto of the "Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill" with less surprise than we should have done if members were not about to meet new constituencies within a month or two, and with less suspicion that they are only playing the game of "make-believe," than we should have felt if it were not indispensable that they should enter upon their new sphere of candidature with an undamaged character.

Well, but will the measure be worth anything if it do pass? We think so. It is true that its scope is limited—for it regulates nothing but the mode of trying election petitions. But then it grasps this matter with a firm and vigorous hand. It transfers the jurisdiction of the House to a regular legal tribunal outside of it, and it secures immediate inquiry into electoral corruption on the spot where it is alleged to have been practised. The crime—for crime we hold it to be—of debasing the political morality of a constituency, will, if the Bill be passed in anything like its original shape, be subject to trial forthwith, in the neighbourhood, where it was committed, and without further delay than will be required to ascertain and marshal the evidence against it. And, if, as we venture to hope, Parliament enacts that, on the voidance of a seat for bribery, the highest candidate on the list of the unsuccessful shall take it, there would seem some likelihood at last of raising a wholesome fear of resorting to bribery, lest it should be playing most surely the game of an opponent.

On Monday night last, the Bill made considerable progress in Committee, and, what is even better, the divisions on certain of its clauses indicated a fixed determination to preserve its main features unimpaired, and to send it up to the House of Lords in as complete a state as possible. Thus Mr. Bouvier's amendment on clause 5, the effect of which would have retained jurisdiction in the hands of the House, and so have prevented immediate

inquiry on the spot, was negated by a majority of seventy-seven, while Mr. Ayrton's amendment which went to set aside the appointment of two judges whose sole business it would be to try controverted election cases, for the purpose of throwing the work upon the judicial bench generally, and adding to it a sufficient number of judges to secure them from being overweighed by their duties, was, against Mr. Disraeli's advice, carried by a majority seventy-one. Mr. Disraeli felt or affected chagrin, although this was but a return to his own original proposal, and moved to report progress that he might "consider what was to be done with the Bill." The measure, however, can hardly be looked upon as any longer in his hands. It has been adopted by a majority who have power to push it through Committee, and who, we trust, will exercise that power. Neither the judges, nor the House of Lords, whom the Premier pretends to fear, will assume the responsibility of causing the abandonment of the measure, if the House of Commons boldly insists upon making it as efficient as they can. The country understands Mr. Disraeli's coyness as an invitation for a little gentle pressure. There is a little difficulty, peradventure, behind the scenes. Somebody wants "educating." The majority who have steadily supported the Bill must perfect the work. We believe they will not shrink from the obligation entailed on them, nor, as Mr. Lowe said, "be influenced by any threat of what may happen hereafter."

LABOUR LAWS.

A CONFERENCE held under the auspices of the Association for the Advancement of Social Science, over which Mr. Gladstone presided, was held on Saturday afternoon, to discuss the relations of capital to labour, and to take such steps as might commend themselves to its judgment for bringing them into closer practical harmony. It consisted of several gentlemen holding a high place in the ranks of social reformers, and of a fair representation of the working men. It passed two or three resolutions, and appointed a committee to carry them into effect. We are not about to discuss them, still less to analyse the speeches that were then and there delivered. There are two sides to every subject—at all events there are two sides to this. Nothing but good can come out of a frank collation of them, that their respective merits and demerits may be compared and discussed. But we have but faint hope that the intricate and difficult problem will be solved by any scientific method, and we have a shrewd suspicion that greater progress will be made towards its solution as the result of the practical inconveniences which the present imperfect adjustment of opposite claims imposes upon both parties, and of their tentative efforts to escape them, than as the consequence of the most unassailable theories, however successfully they may be drilled into the public mind.

As a matter of fact, speaking generally, all men pursue their respective trade vocations on the principle of getting as much as possible for what they have to dispose of, and giving as little as possible for what they want. We should be sorry to be compelled to believe that this is a permanent and inexorable law of human nature, or that it admits of no modification. It may be long before considerations of what is due to others obtain such an ascendancy as perceptibly to modify the operations of trade. We know that they do in individual instances even now, and we see no reason to conclude against the possibility of their doing so to a much greater extent as time rolls on. But, assuredly, so desirable a state of things, if realisable at all, will be realised only in the far future. It is quite useless to form plans on bases which present facts will not sustain, and which exist only in the benevolent imagination. We want to rectify evils which spring out of immediate causes, and we cannot do so by saying that such causes ought not to exist. We must take both masters and men as we find them—both intent upon promoting their respective interests at each other's expense—and we must see whether some compromise may not be effected which will at least minimise their antagonism.

It is pretty generally admitted that defensive associations both of masters and men are legitimate, and may be of service, in the present state of relations between them. It is also known as the result of experience that "strikes" and "lock-outs" are exceedingly wasteful weapons to employ. We suspect that they are never now resorted to on either side but with reluctance—seldom as the result of a cool calculation of interests—almost invariably because the passions have been previously inflamed, or because pride has become too deeply committed. They resemble international wars—nobody has a word

to urge in their favour as a rational way of deciding disputes—whilst every war in particular is looked upon as inevitable, and therefore justifiable, by each of the parties actually engaged in it. In some respects, moreover, associations of masters, and trades' unions of men, constitute nothing better than an armed peace, always menacing, sometimes burdensomely expensive. It is quite evident that these contrivances for self-protection, applicable and applied, on occasions, to purposes of aggression, cannot be destined to perpetuity. They represent a certain phase of the question—a phase which may be confidently regarded as intermediate and transitory. But between this and a proportionate participation by labour of the profits of capital—a most, perhaps the most, desirable consummation within view—there is a wide interval, and how it may be bridged over at last is a question which will not admit of a speedy answer.

Meanwhile, however, can nothing be devised to obviate, in some degree, the palpable mischiefs which originate in an attitude of mutual antagonism? What seems to be most necessary is, that differences between masters and men, on apparently conflicting interests, should be adjusted when they can be looked at from the point of interest only, and before they have become complicated with the demands of passion. The bare question whether it would be worth a master's while, or whether it lies within the compass of his ability, to give his men this or that price for their skill or labour or both; and whether, on the other hand, it would be more advisable for the men to take or refuse it, is not in itself an irritating one to discuss. It may be easily made so. It often is by the well-intentioned intervention of outsiders—and when proud or angry feelings are once evoked, concession becomes difficult, and compromise almost impossible? What more likely to prevent differences from passing into this dangerous stage than a constant opportunity given to both parties to tell their story to a friendly court, equally trusted by both, to take its opinion of the right or wrong, the expediency or in expediency, of the course proposed to be pursued, and to reconsider the matter under the light thrown upon it by a competent third party? This, we believe, is Mr. Mundella's plan of friendly arbitration; and it has been perfectly successful, we are given to understand, not in Nottingham only, but wherever it has been fairly tested. We regard it as merely a step to something better—but it is at once a timely and a feasible step. Co-partneries will require time, experience, and largely increased enlightenment, to establish. They have their difficulties and dangers quite apart from the human will, which, however, we expect will be eventually prevented or overcome. But these courts of friendly arbitration may be formed at once, and put in action almost everywhere—and their advantage is this, that they are easy of resort, and that they initiate no restrictions upon individual freedom.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

FOUR months yet remain ere the first Parliament under the new Reform Bill will be elected, and already the candidates for a large proportion of the constituencies are being "placed." Four months of more or less active canvassing, and no autumnal holiday—such is the unenviable prospect before those gentlemen who aspire to seats in the new House of Commons. The Parliament now sitting is already dissolving itself. M.P.'s are worshipping the rising sun, and paying assiduous court to the new arbiter of England's destinies—the householder. Some who have staid behind, perchance because St. Stephen's will know them no more, have been diligently trying to arrest the progress of the Registration Bill. But their efforts have failed; Mr. Hardy has remained faithful to his engagements: and on Monday that measure, which will ensure a general election in November next, passed the House of Commons. In the Lords a similar and discreditable attempt to effect the same object by delaying the Boundary Bill, has also broken down, and is hardly likely to be repeated. In about another fortnight a long chapter in our political life, dating from 1832, will be completed, and a new volume will be commenced.

It cannot be denied that there is some reason for the Tory panic which is said to have prompted last week's manœuvre in the Upper House to postpone the general election. The Prime Minister can hardly be in haste to precipitate that appeal to the country which threatens before Christmas to involve his own downfall. His skill and tact must be almost superhuman if they should avail to avert that utter discomfiture of the "Constitutional" party which seems to be impending. Judging

from the indications afforded by such fragmentary information as is now before us, the tide is running so strongly against the policy of the Tory party that no imperious Canute can arrest its advance. It is apparently no longer a question whether the Liberals will have a substantial majority, but whether that majority may not be so overwhelming as to make Mr. Gladstone a kind of dictator for many a year to come. The Tories have purchased a short lease of office, and Mr. Disraeli a brief span of supreme power, by mortgaging their future prospects. The householder whom they have enfranchised gives them no thanks; the compounder accepts their boon with bitter and railing ingratitude; new county voters make no account of Mr. Disraeli's favours; and the constituencies created by him hasten to enlist under the banner of his opponents. Never was there a more striking illustration of the engineer being hoisted by his own petard.

Though it is at present hazardous to venture upon prediction where the data are as yet uncertain, we can hardly be mistaken in believing that the Liberals will sweep all the larger, and secure all the moderate-sized borough constituencies at the coming election. The minorities provision may preserve for the Tories a seat for the City of London, Leeds, and Liverpool; but it is doubtful if they will obtain any adherents in any other "three-cornered" borough. At Birmingham their *protégé* is destined to be overwhelmed with numbers; at Manchester no Conservative has yet ventured to put in an appearance; and in Glasgow three Liberals are likely to be returned. That chance which seemed to open of obtaining one out of the three seats in the constituencies referred to is being snatched from the Tories by the coalition of moderate and advanced Liberals on Mr. Gladstone's programme. In the second-rate boroughs the presence of the "Tory democracy" has hardly as yet been discovered. In nearly all the towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire the new electors will turn the scale wherever Tories have been hitherto returned. At Dover the additions to the register have completely destroyed the Churchward monopoly—and Dover is the type of many a Southern and Midland borough constituency.

At the last General Election the Liberals were able to reckon up many gains at the expense of their opponents in the counties. That number bids fair to be largely increased. There is the prospect of a gain of two seats in Berks; both East and West Kent—certainly one of these divisions—may be wrested from Conservative grasp; in Lincolnshire a prudent compromise has secured two Liberal seats; in South Essex no Conservative ventures to show his face; in Norfolk, East Somerset, South Devon, Durham, Oxfordshire, and other divisions hitherto unassailed, the Liberal electors are disposed to test their strength. To some extent, though we trust by no means so generally as is supposed, the rural clergy will be arrayed against them, and the "No Popery" cry is being handed on from district to district. Here and there it may succeed. If fanatical hatred and cruel slanders should make South Lancashire too hot for Mr. Gladstone, it would be an evanescent clerical triumph dearly purchased, and the Liberals of Greenwich have promptly and nobly resolved that their leader and the cause he represents shall sustain no practical inconvenience. By their foresight he will have been provided with a seat in the next Parliament before the dubious voice of South Lancashire has been heard in the polling-booth. How far the Non-conformist farmers of Wales will vindicate their independence and assist the Liberal party remains to be seen, but the proposed meeting of the tenants of Sir Watkin Wynn, in Denbighshire, to ask permission to vote according to their consciences, is a unique revelation of the political bondage to which the occupiers of the soil in the Principality are subject.

The coming election bids fair to clear the House of Commons, to a large extent, of purely commercial representatives, and those who make a trade of their position and opportunities. It is such men who have been the bane of the Liberal party, and the primary cause of the discord and disunion which have prevailed in its ranks. They are now likely to be consigned to obscurity. The Irish Church question is proving to be a touchstone to test the pretensions of these adventurers. If any of them should be re-elected, their influence will be neutralised by new elements of strength. There is every reason to hope that the phalanx of thoughtful and resolute advanced Liberals now in the House will be largely reinforced. If one half of the new men who have entered the field as Liberal candidates is returned, Mr. Gladstone will be supported by a formidable band of young, active, and earnest politicians who, while reflecting the ability and culture of modern Radicalism, will bring to his

aid that earnestness of purpose and strength of conviction which his followers have heretofore so greatly lacked. It is impossible to run down the list of Independent Liberal candidates without believing that a great and wholesome change in the *personnel* of the House of Commons is in prospect, and drawing encouragement from the improved tone of public feeling thus manifested.

In no quarter can Mr. Disraeli expect any palpable party triumphs as the result of the new Reform Bill. In England Toryism is about to be apparently driven out of the boroughs. It is by no means certain that Mr. Roebuck will have any further opportunity, by favour of the electors of Sheffield, of betraying the cause he was sent to Parliament to uphold; and Bristol, which owing to corrupt influences lately returned a Tory who held his seat only a few weeks, promises to vindicate its character at the General Election. In the English counties the Prime Minister has no triumphs to anticipate, and nothing to hope from the newly enfranchised freeholders. Scotland promises to use her increased representative opportunities to strengthen the Liberal forces. Mr. Disraeli, without securing the hearty adhesion of the Protestants of Ireland, has alienated Catholic feeling, and the *Freeman's Journal* predicts that, "with the exception of Ulster, the Dublin University, and two or three other seats, Ireland will be unanimous for disestablishment." Whatever the electoral vicissitudes of the next four months, Toryism can hardly hope to prevent an increase of the present Liberal majority in Parliament. But that majority will need to be overwhelming if the Irish Church conflict is to be shortened, and fatal compromises averted, and in order to give full assurance of the adoption by the new Parliament of comprehensive measures of practical reform. The prospect is hopeful, but the conflict has yet to be fought, and the victory won.

Colleges and Schools.

SILCOATES SCHOOL.

The thirty-seventh anniversary of this school took place on Thursday. It was a pleasant day, and many friends were gathered together in the schoolroom. The chair was occupied by the Rev. H. J. Senior, of Overden, near Halifax, an old Silcotian; among the other gentlemen present were the Rev. J. S. Eastmead, of Wakefield; the Rev. T. Willis, of Pontefract; the Rev. J. Rae, B.A., of Batley; the Rev. B. Brown, of Barnsley; the Rev. C. Illingworth, of Wyke (secretary); a number of other ministers and laymen of the district; D. T. Taylor, of Birstal; and H. Dunnill, of Bristol; and many young men who had received their education in the school. First occurred a debate on the question, "Will England ever decay like the nations of antiquity?" carried on with much spirit and energy by the scholars, who, it need hardly be said, voted it as their opinion that England is not destined to decay like the nations of antiquity. After this, several recitations were effectively delivered by scholars, and then the prizes were distributed to the successful students by the CHAIRMAN, who addressed a few appropriate remarks to each as they received their prizes, and at the close gave them a suitable address, and concluded by saying that he heartily wished that all old Silcotians would remember the school in their after prosperity, and endow the school, say with a few scholarships, so that Silcoates could become a greater power in their denomination. For himself he thanked the committee and the professors of Silcoates for all the benefits which he, in common with them, had derived from Silcoates. (Cheers.) The meeting for business was then commenced, J. P. Harris, Esq., of London, presiding. After a few remarks he called upon the SECRETARY, the Rev. C. Illingworth, to read the report. It said:—

Considering the increasingly high moral tone which pervades the atmosphere of Silcoates, it is almost unnecessary to state that the conduct of the pupils has been highly satisfactory, and that it has secured the commendation of the respected principal. The committee are happy to be able to report that great progress has been made in the different branches of study, entering into the composition of a classical, mathematical, and commercial education; and the high reputation which Silcoates has attained as an educational institution—having been announced by high authority in connection with the religious newspaper press of the country "to be second to none of its class in the kingdom"—has been fully and honourably sustained by the present occupants of the school. The committee would record with much pleasure that Mr. Henry J. Wolstenholme (brother to Mr. John Wolstenholme, who last year took his degree of M.A. at the London University, and both of them former pupils) has this year obtained his B.A. degree at the same University; and Mr. John S. Morley, also lately a pupil, has been matriculated with honours; while Mr. Martin, whose name received honourable mention last year, has made other advances, and is now in possession of five silver and three gold medals, with a prize of 20*l.* a year for two years, obtained at University College, London.

The reports of the Examiners, Dr. Falding and the Rev. R. Outhbertson, M.A., were then read, and

were favourable. The latter concludes his report by saying:—

It is gratifying to find so many young persons receiving an education that will fit them either for a profession or for commercial pursuits, and in an institution pervaded by an influence of a most healthful kind. And it is pleasing to see the indications of great mutual regard and affection between the head of the school and the pupils. I cannot conclude without giving expression to my regret that the Northern Congregational School does not occupy premises more worthy of the denomination, and where a larger number of young gentlemen might have the privilege of enjoying the advantage which the school, under its present Principal, affords.

After an address from the CHAIRMAN, the report was adopted. The Rev. S. DYSON, in proposing the re-election of Mr. John Crossley as treasurer, and the other officers, said that Mr. Crossley was not in England at present, or he would have been with them. He named him now that he might say to the young gentlemen that if they should be so prospered as to become great merchants in the future, that they should make of Mr. Crossley an example. (Hear, hear.) Mr. W. H. LEE (Mayor of Wakefield) moved:—

That this meeting offers its best thanks to the treasurer, John Crossley, Esq., for adding to the many obligations under which he has placed this institution by his kindness and liberality in the past, by again fulfilling so efficiently the honorary duties of treasurer during the past year; and it would also express its earnest desire that his health may be permanently established, and his life long spared to aid the cause and councils of an institution whose best interests he has had so long at heart.

He said that his only regret was that Mr. Crossley's health had so far failed him that he had to retire from all public duty. He only hoped that the prayer of that resolution might be realised—(Hear, hear)—and that he might soon be with them again to take part in those great public duties with which he was associated. He knew that that was the anniversary of Silcoates, and he did not doubt therefore but that he was with them in spirit. The usual votes of thanks to the chairman, the examiners, and the officers having been carried, three hearty cheers were then given for Dr. Bewglass, the principal, and the proceedings ended. The following is the prize list:—

Good Conduct—Senior—Reeve, Stowmarket; Junior—Parnaby, Wilsden. 1st Scripture, Owen, Derby; 2nd, Boston, Wakefield; 3rd, Parnaby. 1st Greek, Briggs, Wakefield; 2nd, Owen. 1st Latin, Owen; 2nd, Ayre, Morpeth; 3rd, Hurman, Cannington; 4th, Turner, Oakham; 5th, Mellor, Holmfirth. First French—1st, Morley, Barton-on-Humber; 2nd, Owen. Second French—1st, Aston, Eccleshill; 2nd, Ollard, Derby. Third French—Pyman, West Hartlepool. 1st German, Sergeant, Brigg. 1st Mathematics, Briggs. 1st Arithmetic, Oldroyd, Huddersfield; 2nd, Turner, Oakham; 3rd, Mellor. Debate, Tate, Beverley. Recitation, Owen. 1st Reading, Islip, Brigstock; 2nd, Parnaby. 1st Geography, Owen; 2nd, Carnson, Preston; 3rd, Bruckshan, Preston. 1st Grammar, Briggs equal with Morley; 2nd, Carnson; 3rd, Parnaby. 1st Mental Arithmetic, Owen; 2nd, Spademan, Stamford; 3rd, Mellor. 1st Dictation, Owen; 2nd, Dryden, Wakefield; 3rd, Parnaby. 1st Spelling, Owen; 2nd, Dryden; 3rd, Parnaby. 1st Tables, Owen; 2nd, Spademan; 3rd, Mellor. Writing, for Christmas, 1867, Ollard; Midsummer, 1868, Owen. Improvement in Writing, Midsummer, 1867, Barlow; 1868, Browne, min. Mapping, Morley. Extra Prizes—Ollard; Turner, Doncaster; Armstrong, West Hartlepool; and Bruckshan.

AIREDALE COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of the constituents of Airedale College took place on Wednesday morning. At eleven o'clock a number of the friends with the students assembled in the library of the college, when the chair was taken by Alderman Brown, treasurer of the institution. The proceedings were opened by prayer, offered up by the Rev. T. T. Waterman. After a few words from the Chairman, Mr. A. BARFIELD, the senior student, read a paper on "The Priesthood of Christ."

The Rev. J. A. SAVAGE, the secretary, read the report of the committee. It stated that the session began with sixteen students in the house, and six had been admitted, one had withdrawn, four had left in August last to enter upon pastoral charges, three were leaving, also to take ministerial charges, at the present anniversary, and fifteen would be in the college to commence the next course. Regret was expressed that one student, Mr. George Tilley, had found it necessary to withdraw in consequence of a change in his views of religion. The work of the students in the various branches of their tuition—embracing theology, Greek, Hebrew, Chaldee, Latin, logic, mathematics, and English, was stated; and a number of gifts to the library recorded. The report further stated that the Rev. Professor Harley has accepted a call to a pastorate at Leicester, and had therefore been compelled to resign the chair of Logic and Mathematics. The regret of the committee at losing Mr. Harley's valuable services was recorded, and it was stated that the Revs. Dr. Fraser and W. C. Shearer had kindly undertaken to perform the duties for the present, as in the unsettled state of the amalgamation question, it was not considered desirable that another professor should be appointed just now. The CHAIRMAN, as treasurer, read the financial report, showing the receipts and expenditure, of which he was unable to give the totals, as he expected that further subscriptions would come in. The receipts thus far amounted to about 1,500*l.*, including 275*l.* balance in hand from last year, and the expenditure to about 1,490*l.* The Rev. J. G. MIALLE (Bradford) moved, and Mr. J. WADE (Leeds) seconded, the adoption of the report. A resolution, relative to the progress of the institution, was then moved by the Rev. J. H. MORGAN (Leeds), and

seconded by Mr. S. SMITH (Bradford). The Rev. H. TARRANT moved a vote of thanks to the Revs. G. R. Conder, M.A., of Leeds, B. Dale, M.A., of Halifax, and T. T. Waterman, B.A., of Bradford, who had conducted the examination of the students. Mr. T. W. BURNLEY seconded the motion. In responding to the vote of thanks to the tutors, the Rev. Dr. FRASER alluded to the arduous work carried on by the students in preaching, which showed that the college was a power in their denomination and in the neighbourhood. (Applause.) The Rev. W. C. SHEARER also acknowledged the vote. After some further formal business, the committee was empowered to appoint a new treasurer in place of Alderman Brown, who has resigned.

The meeting was then made special to receive the report of the committee appointed at the extraordinary constituent meeting held on the 1st of April last, to select a site for the proposed Amalgamated College in the neighbourhood of Bradford, as against the site selected at Potternewton, Leeds. The report, which was read by Mr. J. S. Wilson, of Bradford, stated that out of ten sites which were brought under the consideration of the committee, they had come to the conclusion that the most eligible were a site at Bolton, on the estate of Mr. J. Atkinson Jowett, and one at Heaton, the property of Mr. S. C. Kell. Both these sites are situated within a moderate distance from the town of Bradford, and are accessible without tolls. Both are conveniently situated as regards railway communication, and are in neighbourhoods healthy and pleasant. The report was received but not adopted, and eventually a resolution was adopted to the following effect:—

That a copy of the previous resolution, and of the report referred to therein, be submitted to the constituency of Rotherham College, and that they be asked to appoint a committee of twelve gentlemen with a view to the consideration of the report of the Amalgamation Committee in conjunction with that just received, and of any other sites that may be brought under their notice, and to assist in carrying out the amalgamation of the two colleges. That a committee of twelve gentlemen from Airedale College be appointed to act in conjunction with any committee that may be appointed from Rotherham; such committee to consist of the twelve gentlemen who represented Airedale on the Amalgamation Committee.

After some further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

HACKNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The sixty-fifth annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, at the Upper Clapton Congregational Church, of which the Rev. J. H. Gamble is pastor. Charles Reed, Esq., F.S.A., presided. The first "Homes' Jubilee Prize Essay" for the year—on "The Temple, its glory and its fall"—was read by Mr. J. Blackburn, to whom the 20*l.* prize has been awarded, in his second year of study. The discourse manifested considerable research, and was listened to with attention by the assembly.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his opening address, expressed his hope that the students would peruse the admirable discourse of Dean Alford, in which he laid down what ought to be the guiding principle of the training of our ministers. In the present day it was needful that ministers should be scholarly, able to take rank in the midst of the industrial classes, and to maintain a high position for scholarly attainment—men able to give in popular language the force and power of the language in which the Scriptures were originally written. They must not, however, be a mere race of professional men, but thorough sympathisers with the middle and industrial classes of this country. The principle of Congregationalism was well suited to become a national principle, and ministers must be trained for the advent of that better time.

The Rev. J. E. RICHARDS read the report, from which it appeared that the number of admissions during the year was five; the total number of students in residence twenty; there were three preparing to go forth to the heathen under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, and Mr. Robert Nurse had accepted the charge of a church at Sheerness. The reports of the examiners—the Rev. J. S. Wardlaw, the Rev. Joshua C. Harrison, the Rev. R. Redpath, and Mr. Edward Liddell—were of a very satisfactory character. A prize of 10*l.*, given by Mr. Jones, of Manor House, for proficiency in the study of Hebrew, had been awarded to Mr. Walter Joss. The report referred to the removal by death of several friends of the institution—Mr. John Jones, Mr. Henry Rutt, Rev. Nicholas Helling, Rev. T. Hicks, Mr. T. Scrutton, and Rev. Dr. Tidman. The treasurer's balance-sheet showed a total income during the past year of 2,506*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, of which 73*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* remained as a balance in hand.

The Rev. THOMAS BINNEY moved the adoption of the report.

He remarked that while occupying the chair at a recent meeting at New College he had the pleasure of hearing an intimation that the son of their present chairman, Mr. Reed, after taking his degree at Cambridge, was proceeding to New College for his Nonconformist theological training. (Cheers.) He hoped that this would be the beginning of many such applications among the descendants of opulent Nonconformists. He would have them, however, remember that there were men who, having little acquaintance with Hebrew or Greek, have yet a faculty to interest, an aptness to teach, a religious earnestness, who were capable of a great amount of useful work; but it would not do for the ministry to be confined to such. They needed, also, men who could stand before the world with all the "riches of the Egyptians" consecrating them to God, and using them in illustration of Scripture verities. Thought rules the world, and the men of earnestness would be all the better for having by their side men who were learned, scientific and well-grounded men, who had gone through a solid training in all Biblical knowledge. Students could not go through the course

of study at this institution without obtaining a mental discipline which would adapt their faculties for being applied to any subject, and enable them to keep abreast of society in connection with the advance of literature. While by no means underrating Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, it must never be forgotten that these young men had to preach in English, and must strive earnestly to acquire a power over their own language. There were many instances of men who had plenty of Latin and Greek, who could not make use of the store of knowledge which they possessed, not having acquired a power over popular speech. If ministers could not preach popularly and well, they would not do for Nonconformist pulpits.

The Rev. J. S. PEARSELL, in seconding the resolution, expressed the hope that Mr. Binney would take the round of the churches of the denomination with some of his noble and inspiring sermons. He believed that such a work would be a source of much benefit to the churches. The Rev. J. H. GAMBLE said that if the Congregationalists had in the time to come merely a cultivated ministry, that ministry would be utterly ineffective, and the men going out from Mr. Spurgeon's College would gather hearers from Congregational churches. They needed in ministers physical power, intellectual power, and above all, spiritual power—the power of the Holy Ghost resting upon them. (Cheers.) He concluded by proposing a resolution which recorded the sense of the meeting in the loss sustained by the removal of Dr. Tidman and other friends by death.

The Rev. J. S. WARDLAW seconded the resolution. Various votes of thanks were passed on the propositions of the Revs. W. Tyler, J. E. Richards, and Mr. Atkins. The CHAIRMAN, in responding, re-echoed the wish expressed by Mr. Pearsall in regard to Mr. Binney's visit to the churches of the denomination.

RAWDON COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of the Northern Baptist Educational Society was held on Wednesday, June 24th, at the College, Rawdon, the Rev. S. G. Green, B.A., President of the College, in the chair. The report of the General Committee was read by the Rev. J. P. CHOWN, of Bradford, secretary, in which it was stated that the session had commenced with twenty students, of whom about seven were immediately to leave. The number of students remaining in the house was thus reduced to fifteen, to whom were to be added five new students received on probation at the forenoon meeting for business. The report went on to state that the services of the students in the neighbouring pulpits had been very acceptable, and that several preaching-stations had been wholly supplied by them during the year. The reports of the examiners then followed, and were more than ordinarily commendatory. One of the senior students, Mr. J. G. Greenhough, B.A., had just passed, with much success, the examination for the higher degrees of M.A. at the London University. The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. M. ONCKEN, from Hamburg, seconded by Mr. Geo. KEMP, of Rochdale, and carried unanimously. Various other resolutions were moved or seconded by the Rev. W. Walters, of Newcastle; Rev. Jas. Yoller, of Sydney; Rev. Robert Holmes, of Rawdon; Mr. W. Whitehead, of Bradford; and other gentlemen. At the close an essay on the "Sermon on the Mount" was read by Mr. W. H. Perkins, M.A., senior student, and a sermon by Mr. H. Bonner. In the evening an address was delivered to the students by the Rev. J. Makepeace, of Bradford.

WESTERN COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of the Western College was held at Plymouth, on Wednesday, June 24th, Mr. A. Hubbard in the chair. Mr. ALFRED ROOKER read the report. The session began with twenty students, and several of them had entered upon pastoral and mission work. The students had been encouraged to engage in preaching; and during the year they had conducted upwards of 1,000 services, of which 246 were gratuitous. The income of the College for the year amounted to 1,050*l.*, and the expenditure to 1,142*l.*, 350*l.* having been derived from annual subscriptions, 125*l.* from congregational collections, 120*l.* the grant of the Congregational Fund Board, and 462*l.* from other sources. In accordance with a suggestion made at the last annual meeting, an effort had been made to raise by subscriptions during the year a sum of 1,800*l.* to remove the subsisting debt, and enable the committee to purchase land on the south-eastern side of the College. The difficulty with regard to the land had been removed by the kind offer of 500*l.* from one of the most earnest friends of the institution, and the liberal response of other contributors, so that there was little doubt that in a few weeks the whole amount required to free the College from debt would be subscribed. The committee acknowledged the services of the Rev. E. B. Hickman as financial secretary, and also returned thanks to the Revs. J. M. Charlton, C. B. Symes, and C. Wilson, for important work in reference to the funds. The Rev. H. F. GREEN moved the adoption of the report; and Mr. J. GREENWAY seconded the motion, which was carried. The Rev. H. F. HOLMES moved—

That this meeting congratulates the supporters and friends of the Western College on the large measure of success which has attended the efforts inaugurated at the last annual meeting for the removal of the debt, and to raise a fund for the purchase of land immediately adjoining the College, trusting that the amount still required may be shortly subscribed.

Mr. R. JACKSON having seconded the proposition, it was unanimously carried. Mr. JAMES ROOKER proposed—

That this meeting, being fully convinced of the important spiritual benefits to be rendered to the Congregational churches in the West of England by the Western College, and believing that the prosperity of the institution, under the Divine blessing, very materially depends on the steady augmentation of its regular income, urges on the churches the necessity of encouraging the committee by arranging for

regular congregational collections and enlarged subscriptions on behalf of the college.

The Rev. C. B. SYMES seconded the motion. The Rev. J. WOOD moved thanks to the officers and managers of the institution, and the appointment of the executive committee. The Rev. J. M. NEWLAND seconded the motion.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the annual meeting.

The Rev. THOMAS JONES, of London, then delivered an extemporaneous address to the students of the college, exhorting them to seek after fullness of knowledge and intellectual strength. His remarks were greeted with loud applause. In the evening Mr. Jones delivered the annual sermon in Union Chapel.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM.

The annual examination of the Congregational School, Lewisham, was held on the 29th and 30th of June. On the former day the Rev. S. W. McALL, M.A., examined the boys in classics and mathematics. On the 30th the English examination was conducted by W. G. Lemon, Esq., of Blackheath, the Rev. J. Beazley presiding. The boys were afterwards drilled in the playground, and tea was then served on the lawn to the numerous friends assembled, as well as to the boys. This concluded, the chair was taken by Rev. J. Beazley, and recitations were delivered by the lads, and several pieces sung in an effective style. The hon. secretary, Rev. J. Viney, then read a short statement, detailing the present satisfactory position of the school, the fact that Samuel Morley, Esq., had consented to become its treasurer in place of Mr. R. S. Kitchener, deceased; and that the Honoratus of the school, W. E. Snell, had just taken the first classical prize, the first mathematical prize, and the second prize for general proficiency at the College of Preceptors out of 960 competitors. Addresses were then delivered by Rev. T. Rudd, B.A., the Principal, Rev. R. Ashton, H. Joula, Esq., E. Jacks, Esq., W. Hitchin, Esq., and Rev. I. V. Mummery. The prizes were then distributed by the chairman. The meeting closed with cordial thanks to the examiners and the chairman. The weather was beautifully fine, and the company larger than on any other former occasion.

TETTENHALL PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

The examination of this school, of which the Rev. Robert Halley, M.A., is the head master, was conducted at the close of the last term by the Rev. Professor Newth, M.A., of New College, whose elaborate and very careful report concludes as follows:—"As the result of this examination I have much pleasure in stating my great satisfaction with the general condition of the school. The work of the several classes was shown to have been done with diligence, regularity, and conscientiousness; and clear evidence has been supplied of the carefulness and efficiency of the teachers, of the love of work infused into the boys, and of the general healthy *morale* of the school. Different classes have of course exhibited different degrees of efficiency, but I am happy to be able to report of the school at large that a far larger proportion of replies have given me satisfaction than is usual under such an examination as that I have just made." This institution was one of the results of the Bicentenary (1862) Nonconformist movements, and provides, on moderate terms, a sound and liberal education, both classical and commercial, with a religious training in harmony with the principles held by Evangelical Nonconformists.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

In the Legislative Body there has been an animated discussion on the Budget. M. Thiers spoke at some length on the subject. He said that the existing embarrassments had arisen from expenditure being voted without secure corresponding resources upon which to fall back. The position of political affairs had also exercised an influence. The army and navy estimates ought to be voted, not for the purpose of intervention, but in order to show Germany that France would not tolerate fresh usurpations. M. Thiers reproached the committee with continued want of foresight, alluding in especial to the deficiency of 300,000,000 and the floating debt of 962,000,000. He said:—

The present financial management is unexampled, but the true cause is the policy that has been pursued. The Budget is so deplorable, simply because it contains the whole of your policy in Italy, Germany, Mexico, Paris, and at the elections. Indeed, the Budget is nothing but a photograph of your policy, and therefore it could only be altered, not by the committee on the Budget, but by a committee on the Address, replying to the Speech from the Throne at the opening of each session, and telling the truth every year to the head of the State. Telling the truth may shake Governments, but withholding it destroys them.

M. Magne, the Minister of Finance, in reply said there were two ways of obtaining peace—namely, by a general disarmament, or a disarmament corresponding with that carried out by other countries. But France could not stand quietly looking on while other nations armed. M. Magne added that military exertions would be useless unless the finances were in a satisfactory state, and he then proceeded to explain the present financial situation. He concluded his speech by combating the pessimist opinions which had been expressed.

"Posterity," he said, "would render homage to the Imperial Government for the great results which had been assured to the country. Future generations would

continue the work which had been commenced, and accomplish the great law of labour and of progress."

He was followed by M. Emile Ollivier, who in a masterly manner besought the Government to disarm, and blamed the obstinacy of their indecision. The hint that France was on the road to bankruptcy was very badly received. A member of the majority, M. Haentjens, next rose, and the termination of his remarks raised quite a tempest in the House. "I believe firmly," he said, "that these budgets will not last. I shall vote for this one, but should they continue I shall vote against such madness."

The general debate terminated on Saturday with a speech from M. Rouher. In the course of the discussion M. Jules Favre was called to order by the President for saying that France was not rich enough in the present state of her finances to bear the expense of the Empire. Replying to other remarks of M. Favre, M. Rouher maintained that the French army was merely on an effective peace footing; that the improvement of its arms was an indispensable guarantee against war; and that it would never do for a great nation like France to be unprepared for all eventualities. In the eyes of the French Government, peace was the great condition of civilisation, and war a great calamity; but to desire peace was not necessarily to favour disarmament. The Government had not the same confidence in the fraternal sentiments of nations as M. Jules Favre.

On Monday the supplementary credits for 1867 were passed by 208 votes against 11. The debate upon the supplementary credits for 1868 then commenced.

The Emperor has ordered that as large a number of troops as possible shall be sent home on six months' furlough after the general inspection, and the Minister of War has issued instructions to that effect.

The French Government have granted to Baron Emil Erlanger, of Paris, and Mr. Julius Reuter, of London, an exclusive concession for twenty years, to lay and work a submarine telegraph cable between France and the United States.

GERMANY.

At an election meeting held in Wurtemberg, the Minister of Justice, Herr von Mittnacht, has made a speech opposing the project of a South German Confederation. He said Prussia must propose to the South Germans to enter into really confederate relations by means of which national unity with acceptable conditions might be attained. Until this happened Wurtemberg must continue to hold a waiting attitude.

The King of Bavaria has given his sanction to the formation of a South German Military Commission, which is to regulate in common the military affairs of the South German States, in pursuance of the articles of the Treaty of Prague.

AUSTRIA.

Baron Beust's despatch to the Austrian Ambassador at the Papal Court, replying to the recent allocation of the Pope, emphatically protests against the "incomprehensible and unjustifiable interference of the Pope in the province of home legislation, and throws upon the Court of Rome the responsibility of having aroused religious passions which might create a deplorable conflict."

The Common Council of Vienna have almost unanimously adopted as urgent a resolution, most solemnly protesting against the offensive expressions contained in the recent Papal allocation, and declaring that the Government possesses the entire confidence of the Common Council. The resolution adds that the allocation in question is a decided interference with the legislation of the country, and that the Common Council confidently expects the Government to meet this encroachment with the vigour absolutely essential.

The *Official Gazette* publishes an Imperial decree, giving effect to the Marriages Bill, and an order limiting the prohibition of theatrical performances to five days in the course of one year.

The Papal allocation does not appear likely to find more favour in Hungary than in Austria. The *Pesti Naplo* warns the Pontifical Court that the laws of the country are the supreme rule of the citizen, and advises no power on earth to violate the respect due to them.

The War Minister of the Empire has ordered the immediate furlough of twenty men per company, by which a reduction in the army of 36,000 men will be effected.

It is announced that as the Roumanian Government has recognised in principle the demand for compensation made by Austria on account of the injuries inflicted upon Jewish Austrian subjects, a committee is now engaged in settling the amount of compensation to be paid. The Roumanian Government at the same time engaged to return the arms claimed by Austria.

SERVIA.

The ceremony of administering the solemn unction to Prince Milan, as Sovereign of Serbia, took place on Friday, in the presence of the representatives of foreign Powers. A reception was afterwards held, which was numerously attended. The British Consul-General, as senior foreign representative, congratulated the Prince on his accession to the throne, in the name of the foreign Powers represented.

The Servian Skuptschina, before closing its session on Saturday, passed a series of declaratory resolutions, providing, amongst other things, that the Skuptschina shall be convoked yearly, that a monument to the late Prince shall be erected in the Top-scheider Park by popular contribution, that every Servian shall be responsible for the life of Prince

Milan, and that the Government shall strictly observe the friendly relations with foreign Powers cultivated by Prince Michael. A resolution was also passed declaring that neither Prince Karageorgovich nor his dynasty shall ever occupy the throne of Servia. The members subsequently paid their respects to Prince Milan, after which the session was closed.

The Servian Council of Regency has issued a proclamation, declaring that it adopts the dictum of the late Prince Michael, "the law is the supreme will in Servia." It will take measures to develop the military forces of the country, and promises that the Skupschina shall be more frequently convoked.

On Monday Captain Nenadovic, brother-in-law of Prince Alexander Karageorgewich, was executed for complicity in the murder of Prince Michael.

AMERICA.

A cable telegram states that the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was celebrated throughout the United States on Saturday last with the usual festivities, the day being observed as a close holiday.

President Johnson issued a proclamation on the 4th, pardoning all participants in the Southern rebellion, excepting those who have been indicted for treason-felony.

The British frigate Chanticleer is blockading Mazatlan, in Mexico, for an insult to the British flag.

The Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate have reported Mr. Banks' Bill for the Protection of Naturalised Citizens with the reprisal section struck out.

The delegates from Arkansas have been admitted to seats in the House of Representatives. The Democratic members have protested against their admission, declaring that they have been forced upon the State by military rule, under circumstances destructive of the principles of Constitutional Government. General Grant has officially notified to General McDowell the admission of Arkansas. It is reported that military rule in that State will be immediately withdrawn.

The Mississippi election is progressing quietly. Large numbers of negroes are voting with the Democrats, and there are indications that the new constitution will be defeated. The Democrats claim to have won the Mississippi election by 25,000 majority.

The Federal authorities at New Orleans have arrested 100 persons suspected of being filibusters, and about to embark for Mexico in the interest of Santa Anna.

President Johnson, in his veto of Mr. Stevens's bill for the admission of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida, to representation in Congress, repeats the objections advanced by him when he vetoed the Arkansas bill. The President declares that Congress has assumed an authority over six States of the Union which had never been delegated to it, and in the case of Alabama, Congress has violated its pledged faith by forcing upon the State a constitution which the people had rejected under laws enacted by Congress. The whole bill is declared to be subversive of the principles of government.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Dr. Nathans, a Jewish Rabbi in America of great ability, advocates a union of Jews and Unitarians.

The *Pungolo* of Naples states that Garibaldi is suffering so severely from a rheumatic attack, that he is compelled to go about on crutches.

Considerable excitement has been produced among the anti-slavery men of America by the news that two fugitive slaves from Cuba were returned in an American steamer to their master in Havana.

A grand review took place at Constantinople on the 2nd inst. in honour of Prince Napoleon. His Imperial Highness will take leave of the Sultan this week. The Viceroy of Egypt also leaves for Ems, travelling by way of Vienna.

A memorial has been addressed to Lord Stanley by the British merchants of Alexandria, praying that her Majesty's Government will not entertain any proposal for the abolition of the British Consular Courts in Egypt, and the substitution in their stead of mixed tribunals of native and European judges.

From China we have intelligence that a force of rebels, said to be 80,000 strong, all mounted, and all fighting men, had approached Tientsin and burnt several villages. One British and two French gunboats were moored off the place, and the "wildest excitement" prevailed.

The population of Prussia, according to recent Government returns, including the duchy of Lauenburg, is 21,013,033; that of the whole Confederation of Northern Germany amounts to 29,953,626, and including the Confederation of the North and the other States of the Zollverein, they amount to 38,761,281 inhabitants.

The reports of M. de Bismarck's health are not so favourable. He has been ordered to remain for several hours in the day out in the open air, inhaling the odour of the pine trees, in his own woods in Silesia, their resinous exhalations being discovered as most valuable. This new "cure" is becoming the fashion on the Continent.

Ferdinand Freiligrath, one of the most honoured of German poets, reached Cologne on Saturday last, after an exile of eighteen years. A large number of his friends and admirers had assembled at the landing-place to receive him, and a magnificent banquet was given in his honour the same evening. After the dinner the poet was presented with a splendid silver goblet.

Gold fields have been discovered in South Africa. News comes by the Roman that "diggers" had arrived at Shoostronu, the chief Matjen's head kraal, whose country is rich in gold fields, and had made terms with that chief for the privilege of digging. Matjen had received the party in a friendly

manner and pointed out the treasure; he also expressed himself anxious to be taken under British protection. Lions were plentiful in the country, and caution with regard to them was found necessary.

A Canadian correspondent mentions an important fact in connection with Miss Rye's mission to that province. In two hours forty of the young women she took with her found situations at Montreal as domestic servants, and the remainder were disposed of in an equally short space of time at Toronto. The correspondent adds that if there had been a thousand of them they would have been absorbed as readily as a hundred.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY.—Trebizond, a Turkish seaport on the shores of the Black Sea, has been the scene of a horrible event. A madman armed with a knife lately paced the street in front of his house, and stabbed in succession seventeen persons who were passing. Four of his victims fell dead, and ten others, it was feared, were mortally wounded. The other three escaped with little injury. The murderer was struck down by a stone and secured.

MAD DOGS.—SEVENTEEN PERSONS BITTEN.—A paragraph in the *Salut Public* of Lyons states that in the past week seventeen persons were bitten by mad dogs. At Saint-Genis-Laval a large dog traversed the commune, biting men and animals. Ten persons were more or less injured. A little girl of five or six years had her face partly torn away. She is despaired of. At Neyron five persons were bitten by another dog. At Montlual two persons were bitten. The number of sheep, cattle, and other dogs that have been bitten are very great. Baron de Metz, the Secretary-General of the Police Department, has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

THE RECENT SUTTEE IN INDIA.—The *Pioneer* of Calcutta recently published the particulars of a suttee which had taken place in the Cawnpore district, under circumstances of an exceedingly painful character. A very strong feeling of indignation was roused on the facts becoming known, and the authorities took measures for bringing those who had taken part in the suttee to justice. A great number of arrests were made, and by the Calcutta advices just received, we are informed that thirty of the prisoners have been transported for life, and that the remainder (eleven) have been condemned to five years' imprisonment.

KING THEODORE'S SON.—A private letter from Alexandria, dated June 21, says:—"The late Theodore's son is a very intelligent and fine little fellow, of seven or eight years of age. He is under the care of Captain Speedy, to whom he is much attached, and whom he calls his father. The little fellow is somewhat timid, which perhaps is not to be wondered at after what he has passed through. If he wakes up in the night he cries out lustily until assured that his guardian is near at hand. His bed is placed by the side of the captain's. The boy is now dressed in a knickerbocker suit and straw hat." The young prince left Valetta on Saturday in the *Urgent*, under the charge of Capt. Speedy, for Portsmouth.

ANECDOTE OF NAPOLEON III.—On Monday last the Emperor, accompanied by General Castelnau and Captain Lassalle, drove from the Palace at Fontainebleau in his phaeton, drawn by the pair of black horses presented to him by the Emperor of Russia, to Moulins-en-Forêt. As he reached a cross-road, a poor old woman, driving her ass, was upset by the cart, laden with sticks, knocking against a stone bench. The cart itself was completely upset, and the poor woman was so caught in the wheel that she could not extricate herself, and was in imminent danger of being crushed. The Emperor got down, and, assisted by his two companions, lifted the cart and set it on its wheels, and thus delivered the poor old woman from her perilous position. The Emperor was in morning dress, consisting of a grey jacket and brown straw hat, so that if he had not put a hundred-franc note in her hand she never would have guessed to whom she owed her deliverance.

THE CATHOLIC GENERAL COUNCIL.—The full text of the Papal bull convoking a general council of the Catholic Church for the 8th December, 1869, has now been published, and is the subject of comment in the continental journals. The *Paris Siecle* says, that like all the previous acts of the Pontifical Court, it is a protest against the spirit of liberty, and an affirmation, without reserve, of the supreme power and authority of the Successors of St. Peter. "They alone," it adds, "can remedy the evils that are delineated with those studied and insulting epithets which, as we have often had occasion to point out, have become one of the distinguishing features of the apostolic manifestoes." The French clerical organ *Le Monde* explains that the bull will be sent to all the schismatical bishops, but not to the heretical. The *Monde* says that the distinction is made because the schismatical bishops whose consecration has been regularly performed according to the canonical rules have really the character of bishops, while the heretics and Protestants cannot flatter themselves that they possess genuine bishops at all. The *Nord* points out that formerly the Church considered the questions discussed in these great councils so far interested civil society that the various Catholic Governments had the right to send their ambassadors as representatives, and that even in the middle ages, when the Papacy exercised a kind of universal sovereignty, it never thought of avoiding this obligation. The *Nord* considers that in acting thus the Pope is himself establishing the separation of Church and State which he has so often described as one of the most pernicious errors of modern society—"a perfidious and damnable invention of an atheistic philosophy opposed to all religion."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

ATLESBURY.—The Liberals intend making strenuous efforts to change the borough from its present neutral position of being represented by a Liberal and Tory. It is in contemplation to hold a monster meeting, and invite a deputation from the Reform League; also, to ascertain the views of the Lord of the Manor (Mr. A. Tindal), in reference to coming forward as a candidate.

BEDFORD.—Mr. John Everitt, who at the last general election was a candidate for this borough, has declined to be again nominated. Mr. James Howard (whose conversion from Conservative to Liberal views, in consequence of his visit to the United States, was recorded in a recent number) has been asked to stand in the Liberal interest with Mr. Whitbread. It is expected he will consent.

BERKS.—Mr. Walter and the Hon. Auberon Herbert (brother to the Earl of Carnarvon), the two Liberal candidates for this county, have commenced their canvass, and have met with a very favourable reception. An enthusiastic meeting was held in the Mansion House, Newbury, on Wednesday, at which Mr. Herbert spoke on the Irish Church question, and a resolution pledging the meeting to use every effort to ensure his return, in conjunction with Mr. Walter, was unanimously adopted. The Conservatives only put forward two candidates, Mr. Benyon and Col. Loyd Lindsay, Sir Charles Russell retiring. The minorities principle applies to this county.

BIRMINGHAM.—According to the local *Post* the new constituency for Birmingham will number 43,000. The number on the old register was about 15,000, so that the Reform Act will add something like 28,000 voters to the constituency. Mr. Sampson Lloyd still talks of coming forward with a view to secure for the Conservatives one of the three seats. A meeting of the general committee of the Birmingham Liberal Association was held in the Town-hall yesterday evening. There were 310 members present. The object was to select three Liberal candidates for the next election. Mr. Bright, M.P., and Mr. Dixon, M.P., were elected without opposition. For the third member seven candidates were proposed, including Mr. Beales, but they were all withdrawn, and the vote of the committee showed 284 in favour of Mr. Philip Henry Muntz.

BORDER BURGH.—Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, M.P. for Tynemouth, has offered himself as a candidate for the representation of the Border Burghs in Parliament. His political principles are those of a "thorough-going Liberal."

BRADFORD.—Our readers will know that, at a large meeting of the members of the Liberal Electoral Association, held some few weeks ago, it was determined to get up a requisition of the householders of Bradford to Mr. Edward Miall, asking him to become a candidate for the representation of this borough at the approaching election. Since that meeting the committee of the Electoral Society have, through their ward and district committees, been actively canvassing the householders for their signatures to the requisition. Although the labour is not yet completed, we are glad to be able to say that the work is progressing very steadily, and in a most satisfactory manner. Already the names attached to the requisition amount to many thousands, and there is every reason to believe that the result will be such a requisition as will fully warrant Mr. Miall in coming forward with confidence as to the result of the election in the autumn.—*Bradford Review*.

BUCKS.—Mr. N. G. Lambert, of Denham Park, has issued his address to the Liberals of Bucks.

COCKERMOUTH.—A requisition is shortly to be presented by the Liberals of Cockermouth to Mr. Isaac Fletcher, of Tarn Bank, who was a candidate when Major Green-Thompson was recently elected M.P. for that borough, asking him to stand at the ensuing election. This requisition is signed by about 700 of those who will be electors under the new Act. The whole constituency will number, it is believed, 1,200 voters. Cockermouth loses one member under the new redistribution of seats; and whether Earl Mayo or Major Green-Thompson will appear in the Conservative interest is not yet known.

DARLINGTON.—A town's meeting was held on Wednesday evening to hear the political views of Mr. Backhouse, who stated he favoured the disestablishment of the Irish Church, and the abolition of Church-rates if the late proposed compromise were not accepted. He advocates a general revision of the licensing system, and is opposed to the Permissive Bill. He must take time to consider the question of the ballot, though if brought in by the Government he would vote for it. A resolution accepting Mr. Backhouse was carried by an immense majority over an amendment that a week's adjournment should take place to hear Mr. Spark's political views before the town be called upon to decide. It was announced that Mr. Spark would contest the borough.

DERBYSHIRE (NORTH).—Lord George Cavendish and Mr. Jackson have published farewell addresses to the electors of East Derbyshire, and their offers of service to those of the North. His lordship says in reference to the Irish Church:—

Those who know Mr. Gladstone know also that this question has long and anxiously stirred his mind, and that he most deeply feels the responsibility attaching to him in bringing it forward. For my part, I have long felt that the Irish Church Establishment was indefensible, and after all is said and done it comes to this, that in Ireland the State maintains a large Establishment for one-eighth of the population, and surely that is not justice. There are some who think that the Established Churches of England and Ireland are inseparably united, and that for the security of the first it is necessary that the latter should be maintained. I do not think that any argument more dangerous could be advanced than that in order to preserve the Church in England we must do an act of great injustice to the

Irish people. So I fear it will be with the Irish Church Establishment. There may be lapse of time before this measure is finally carried, but some day when difficulties in Ireland or with America happen to arise, the settlement will be yielded to fear and tumult, which might now be effected with every ease and every consideration for the vested interests of the Irish Protestants.

There are two Conservative candidates for this division.

DERBYSHIRE (EAST).—Mr. Wm. Jackson has finally determined to go to North Derbyshire with his present colleague, Lord George Cavendish. The Hon. Mr. Strutt, eldest son of Lord Belper, is now in the field, in conjunction with Capt. Egerton, son-in-law of the Duke of Devonshire. It is rumoured that in addition to the two Tory candidates who have already issued their addresses, two Liberal-Conservatives are to be brought forward. At a meeting held last week, the resolution inviting the Hon. Capt. Egerton to come forward was seconded by the Rev. A. T. Blythe, vicar of Scarescliffe, who said he felt it his duty as a clergyman of the Church of England to say that he warmly supported the policy of Mr. Gladstone, and believed it would tend to the welfare of the Protestant faith if the Irish Church was disestablished. (Loud cheers.)

DEVONPORT.—The Conservative candidates for this borough will be Mr. Ferrand and Mr. Cecil Raikes.

DEVONSHIRE.—For the Eastern division Sir L. Palk and Lord Courtenay are the Conservative candidates; for the South, Mr. Kekewich and Sir M. Lopes will, it is said, solicit the suffrages of the electors; and in the North, Sir S. Northcote and Mr. Acland will seek re-election. There is some expectation of opposition in each division of the county.

DEWSBURY.—On Tuesday last week a public meeting of Liberals was held at the Royal Hotel, Dewsbury, Mr. W. Senior presiding. A protracted discussion took place upon the choice of candidates, but ultimately Mr. Handel Cosham, of Bristol, was unanimously resolved upon. The executive committee afterwards met to consider the question of inviting Mr. Cosham to Dewsbury to address the electors. In response Mr. Cosham says:—

I cannot, and will not, hesitate to so far comply with your request as to come down and state fully and frankly my political sentiments; but, for the present you must please regard me as unpledged, and I should like it to be clearly understood that if, after you have heard my views on all the great questions of the day, you think any other candidate would be more likely to carry the Liberal party in your borough, I should feel that you were entirely unfettered by any pledges to me. My object will be cordially to unite all sections of the Liberal party.

Mr. Cosham is to address the electors about the middle of the month. There was a meeting of some working men on Friday, at which strong disapprobation was expressed at the conduct of those who are bringing out Mr. Cosham, and earnest approval of Mr. Ernest Jones. It was resolved to call a public meeting for this day, in the Market-place, Dewsbury. Mr. Edward Day, who has intimated that he is prepared to contest the seat, has sent in his resignation as a member of the committee of the Registration Association, which body is promoting the election of Mr. Cosham. The Conservatives are on the alert, and the name of Mr. Maule, the Recorder of Leeds, is freely spoken of as their candidate.

EDINBURGH.—The Conservatives have resolved to invite Lord Stanley to become a candidate for the representation of the city. A requisition to the noble lord is to be immediately issued for signature. The other candidates are Mr. M'Laren, the present member, and Mr. Miller, of Leithen.

ESSEX (EAST).—A large and influential meeting of the Liberals of this district was held at the Horn Inn, Braintree, on Thursday last, when Sir Thomas Birch Western, the present member for North Essex, and Sir Thomas Neville Abdy, were unanimously nominated as candidates for the ensuing election. Both gentlemen were present and addressed the meeting, and both were enthusiastically received. The Conservative candidates are Mr. Charles Du Cane and Mr. James Round, and the contest must be severe. It will be remembered that the Tories held possession of this part of the county for more than thirty years, and that in 1865 Sir T. B. Western defeated the notorious Major Beresford by a majority of 49.

ESSEX (WEST).—The Conservatives have, it is stated, made up their differences in this division, and Colonel Brise, the surplus candidate, has retired in favour of Lord E. Cecil. No Liberal candidates have yet appeared.

EXETER.—The Attorney-General (Sir John Karslake) stands for the seat vacated by Lord Courtenay. Mr. Coleridge, the present Liberal member, is very popular in the city, and will, in all probability, be returned at the head of the poll. It is thought by some people that parties are pretty evenly balanced; but the Liberals think the addition of about 2,000 to the constituency will give them a preponderance, and they talk of bringing forward Mr. Edgar Bowring as a second Liberal candidate.

GREENWICH.—After several meetings held by the leading Liberals of Greenwich, they have resolved to show the estimation in which they hold the services Mr. Gladstone has rendered to the people by returning him to Parliament for their borough entirely without his personal co-operation or assent, and at their own expense. Such a mark of confidence on the part of so large a metropolitan constituency they believe will not be without its value at the present moment, and need not in any way interfere with his seat for South Lancashire. Mr. Angerstein, who till lately represented Greenwich, has consented to act as chairman of Mr. Gladstone's committee, and Mr. Alderman Salomons has announced his intention of throwing the whole weight of his influence into

the scale of Mr. Gladstone's candidature. Public meetings will at once be held in support of the movement, and a large committee is being rapidly formed in the three divisions of the borough.

GUILDFORD.—Mr. Garth, Q.C., one of the M.P.'s for this borough, has issued his address. He comes forward "as a firm supporter of the union of Church and State, and of those constitutional principles which he has always professed." Sir Henry Bulwer, G.C.B., has accepted the invitation to contest the borough in the Liberal interest, and in a few days he will meet the electors. Sir Henry is at present on the Continent.

HANTS (SOUTH).—The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, one of the present members of Hertford, will be a Liberal candidate for South Hants.

IPSWICH.—Mr. Henry Wyndham West, the Recorder of Manchester (who contested the last election in conjunction with Mr. H. E. Adair in the Liberal interest, when he was defeated by Mr. J. C. Cobbold, the Conservative candidate, by six votes only), was unanimously chosen as a second Liberal candidate with Mr. Adair at a crowded meeting at the Corn Exchange on Monday evening.

LANCASHIRE (NORTH-EAST).—At an influential meeting at Accrington last Thursday, Mr. Fenton, of Rochdale, and Colonel Townley, were chosen as the Liberal candidates for this division.

LEEDS.—On Monday night there was a great Liberal meeting in Leeds, in order to nominate candidates for the next election. From 15,000 to 20,000 persons were present. The first resolution pledged the Liberal party not to bring out more than two candidates, leaving the Tories the third seat intended for the minority. Mr. Baines, M.P., was present, and was proposed for re-election on behalf of the working classes. Mr. Alderman Carter, president of the local branch of the Reform League, was proposed, as also was Lord Amberley. Mr. Baines, in addressing the meeting, said within a fortnight the present Parliament would be a thing of the past. The electors would be called upon to create a new Parliament, a Parliament new indeed in the history of England. He approved of bringing out only two Liberals for Leeds. Among the changes since last election he especially mentioned the enfranchisement of the working classes, by which the votes in Leeds would be multiplied fourfold. A peaceful revolution had been effected, and the people have to show whether they will exert their new power for the interest, honour, and character of England. He believed they would do so. Mr. Carter having also spoken, he and Mr. Baines received severally the support of the meeting by a show of hands of nearly all present. Lord Amberley's supporters had a very poor show. Mr. Carter then declared himself to be in the field. The Tories have as yet made no sign, except placarding some bills on walls saying "Beecroft and Wheelhouse (a local barrister) for Leeds."

LINCOLNSHIRE (NORTH).—In this division a compromise is expected by the unopposed return of Mr. Rowland Winn, of Appleby Hall, in the Conservative interest, and Sir M. J. Cholmeley, in the Liberal interest.

LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Horsfall, the senior member, has announced his intention to retire. The Conservative Association of the borough have resolved to nominate Lord Sandon in his place, in conjunction with the present junior member, Mr. S. R. Graves.

MALDON.—It is stated that Mr. Serjeant Ballantine or Mr. Swanston, Q.C., will contest this borough in the Liberal interest against Mr. G. M. W. Sandford, one of the present sitting members. Mr. Western has declined to stand.

MERIONETHSHIRE.—At a numerously attended meeting of delegates from all parts of the county, held at Dolgelly on Thursday, it was resolved that Mr. David Williams, of Castell Dewdreath, near Portmadoc, be again invited to contest the county in the Liberal interest. His candidature will be conducted on the voluntary principle. He has twice before contested the county, and on the last occasion was defeated by a very narrow majority. As yet the Tories seem undecided. A meeting of Sir Watkin Wynn's tenants has been convened for the purpose of adopting a petition praying that they may vote according to their principles and conscience.

MERTHYR.—The Right Hon. H. A. Bruce has met a considerable number of his leading supporters at the Bush Hotel. In the course of his address he expressed himself as tolerably secure of success, if he could rely upon promises, but in election times it would not do to be too certain. He claimed the first seat, and thought that sixteen years' hard work in the House of Commons entitled him to it. He desired to stand by himself, and let the other two candidates fight for the second seat between themselves. A committee, upon which 500 names were enrolled, was appointed.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.—The Monmouthshire Electoral Association has issued a circular in which it points out that the county, which, under the present constituency, is professedly Liberal, has been represented for twenty years by two Tories, whose only claim is their connection with the houses of Tredegar and Badminton. It states that whilst the increase by the new Reform Bill in the Conservative districts ranges from ten to fifty per cent., the increase in the Liberal districts averages 300 per cent. In conclusion, it alludes to the necessity of attending to the register.

NORFOLK (NORTH).—Mr. E. R. Wodehouse and Mr. R. T. Gurdon have been selected as the Liberal candidates for this division.

NORTH LANCASHIRE.—The Marquis of Hartington has issued his address. He says:—

The Church in England and the Church in Ireland stand, in my opinion, on very different foundations. In England the Church can and does accomplish a work of

importance in promoting religion and morality among the people, while in Ireland no such work is possible for the Church. Prepared as I am to resist the severance of the union between Church and State in England, I believe that the greatest danger to the permanence of that union in England arises from its maintenance in Ireland.

The marquis expresses his great regret that the political harmony which has so long existed in this division of the county has been disturbed by the Conservative party, in the attempt to obtain both seats. The Conservatives are putting forward the Hon. Mr. Stanley, Lord Derby's son, in conjunction with Colonel Wilson Patten.

NOTTINGHAM.—In declining to contest the borough Mr. Samuel Morley, in an address issued last week, says:—

I am compelled, therefore, to say distinctly and openly, what I have already intimated as probable to some private friends, that, while I shall always be bound by many ties of personal and commercial association to the town of Nottingham, and shall ever take the liveliest interest in its prosperity, it is impossible that I could consent to represent it in Parliament. My doing so would be certain to revive recollections, and would in all probability lead to a repetition of scenes through which I passed three years ago, which (while I am conscious of my own integrity) are the most painful experiences of my political life, and I desire to be free from the turbulent associations of party politics in my future intercourse with the good old town. As this is my final and absolute determination, and is not dependent on the result of the contest at Bristol on which I am entering, I ask you to communicate the contents of this letter to the members of the committee and their supporters, and to beg of them to abstain from any further efforts on my behalf. It has cost me, I assure you, no little pain, and is the result of a long conflict between feeling and judgment, to make this communication, from the sincere respect I entertain for those to whom it is made.

The only Liberal now in the field is Mr. B. Osborne. Sir R. Clifton will again come forward, and the Conservatives will in all probability propose as their candidate Mr. Henry Smith, a local banker.

OXFORDSHIRE.—The Liberals will contest this county with Mr. W. G. Cartwright, of Aynhoe, as their candidate, against Mr. Henley and Col. North, Conservatives.

PORTSMOUTH.—Mr. Stone and Mr. Serjeant Gaselee, the sitting members, seek re-election. The Mayor (Mr. R. E. Davies) also comes forward as a Liberal. Sir J. D. H. Elphinstone, in compliance with a requisition signed by 2,000 Conservatives, consents to stand, but objects to spend any large sums in election expenses.

PRESTON.—Lord Edward Howard has issued his address. He refers to the votes which he has given during the twenty years he has been in Parliament, and advocates a well-defined system of national education, non-intervention, economy with efficiency in the public expenditure. He believes the disestablishment of the Irish Church to be of vital importance, and he rejoices that a greatly enlarged constituency will have the opportunity of pronouncing upon it.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.—An association calling itself the Independent Club has issued an address to the electors urging them to choose at least one county member whose political principles will be in accordance with their own, and whose personal character will be the best guarantee for his political fidelity. Their political creed is, "in the first place," "that all religious denominations should be free and independent of the State."

SALFORD.—Mr. Henry Rawson (once a conspicuous leader of the Anti-Corn Law League) has been chosen by the Liberals as the colleague of Mr. Cheetham. The Mayor of Salford, Mr. Pochin, was requested by some of his friends to become a candidate, but he considered himself pledged to the Liberals of Stalford, which borough he unsuccessfully contested in 1865.

SHEFFIELD.—In consequence of the candidature of Mr. J. A. Mundella, who has been put forward to contest the seat now held by Mr. J. A. Roebuck, M.P., and in consequence also of Mr. Hadfield's committee having been asked to unite with Mr. Mundella, a meeting of the joint committees of Messrs. Roebuck and Hadfield was held at Sheffield on Tuesday. Mr. Roebuck was present, and in the course of the meeting delivered a speech in justification of his conduct since the last election. After a great deal of discussion, in which many opinions in favour and adverse to Mr. Roebuck were given, a vote of thanks to him for having attended the meeting was passed, and a resolution was adopted for calling an early meeting, at which the hon. gentleman and his colleague, Mr. Hadfield, are to be invited to be present. It will probably be held next Monday.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE (SOUTHERN DIVISION).—A meeting was held at Garston, on Wednesday evening, to support Mr. Gladstone's candidature for the representation of South Lancashire. There was a large attendance. Mr. Crosfield, who presided, stated that the object of the meeting was to organise themselves, that they might be prepared for the battle which awaited them. Resolutions were unanimously passed according to the hearty sympathy of the meeting to Mr. Gladstone in his endeavours to secure an equitable representation of the people in Parliament, and to obtain justice for all classes of her Majesty's subjects in Ireland, by the placing of all churches in that country on a footing of absolute equality in the eye of the law; and pledging the meeting to use its utmost exertion to return Mr. Gladstone. The leading Liberals of the district were present at the meeting.

STALYBRIDGE.—A crowded meeting of the Liberals of this new Parliamentary borough was held last

week, John Cheetham, Esq., M.P., in the chair, to appoint an executive committee to select a suitable candidate. Mr. Cheetham and the Rev. J. Page Hopps were most emphatic in recommending the choice of a member who should be sound and whole on the Church and State question. At the close of the meeting a committee was nominated with the aforesaid object.

ST. IVES.—Mr. W. Bolitho, a Cornish gentleman, has been invited to contest St. Ives in the Liberal interest. The sitting member is Mr. Paull, a Conservative.

SURREY (EAST).—Messrs. Buxton and Locke King, the sitting members, will seek re-election for this division of the county. It is at present uncertain whether Messrs. Peek and Broderick will contest the seats, or whether they will go for the new division of Mid-Surrey.

SUNDERLAND.—It has been agreed to submit the claims of Mr. T. C. Thompson and Mr. Gourley to a preliminary vote of the Liberal party at Sunderland by means of voting cards sent to each elector by post. The candidate who has the fewest votes will retire, and allow the successful one, with the present Liberal member, Mr. Candlish, to contest the borough against Mr. James Hartley, the Conservative. The Judge-Advocate-General, the Right Hon. J. R. Mowbray, has issued an address to the electors of Durham (city), offering himself for re-election. The Liberals have brought forward Mr. Davison, Q.C., along with Mr. Henderson, to contest the seat.

TAMWORTH.—Mr. John Peel has become unpopular amongst a large number of his constituents, by reason of some of the votes he has given; and a deputation has waited on Mr. John Jaffray, J.P., Birmingham, and proprietor of the *Birmingham Daily Post*, a prominent Liberal, asking him to become a candidate. Mr. Jaffray has consented, and will shortly issue his address. He will support the completion of the Reform Bill by the adoption of the Ballot, and the abolition of the ratepaying clauses, the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the total extinction of Church-rates, rigid economy in the national expenditure, the alteration of the game-laws, the promotion of a national system of unsectarian education, and the protection of the funds of working-men's societies. A correspondent writes that "in Tamworth the working men will form fully two-thirds of the new constituency of this borough, and nearly the whole of them will give their votes for an advanced Liberal only and for Sir Robert Peel. Although Sir Robert is not an advanced Liberal, he is popular with the working classes. We are almost sure to carry Mr. Jaffray at the next election."

WAKEFIELD.—Mr. W. H. Leatham, the sitting member, owing to "family arrangements," retires; and Mr. Somerset Beaumont, formerly member for Newcastle, and brother of Mr. W. B. Beaumont, M.P., has consented to become the Liberal candidate. The local *Express* says that although every effort has been made to induce Mr. Leatham again to offer himself, all overtures have proved ineffectual.

WHITBY.—Mr. H. S. Thompson, who was pressed to become a candidate for this borough in the Liberal interest, having elected to contest the Mid division of the West Riding, it was announced on Saturday night that Mr. W. H. Gladstone (now member for Chester), would become a candidate. Mr. Bagnall, the sitting Conservative, will not seek re-election.

YORKSHIRE (EAST RIDING).—The split in the Conservative camp has resolved the Liberals upon starting at least one candidate. It is stated that the Liberal leaders have invited Mr. Denison and Colonel Haworth. There has been no contest in the Riding for twenty-seven years.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH RIDING).—A requisition is being got up to Mr. E. S. Cayley, asking him to become a candidate for the Riding in the agricultural interest—in fact, to occupy the position so long held by his father as the "farmer's friend." Mr. Cayley has accepted the invitation. Mr. Milbank, the present Liberal member, has pledged himself to stand. The Conservative candidates will be Colonel Duncombe and probably Mr. W. J. S. Morritt, the late member.

THE RETIRING MEMBERS.—An unusual number of the English, Welsh, and Scotch members of the present House of Commons have announced their intention not to seek for re-election. They include many who have for years taken an active part in the political world. The following is a list:—

Sir R. W. Bulkeley (L)	Anglesey
Colonel Stuart (C)	Bedford
Mr. Barnard (Liberal)	Bedford
Mr. Mitchell	Berwick
Sir T. E. Warrington (L)	Bewdley
*Mr. Hodson (L)	Bridport
Mr. Traill (L)	Caithness
Sir T. D. Lloyd (L)	Cardiganshire
Colonel Pryse (L)	Cardigan
Mr. Jones	Carmarthenshire
Mr. Morris (L)	Carmarthen
Mr. Schreiber (C)	Cheltenham
Mr. Robertes (L)	Cornwall, East
Mr. Davey (L)	Cornwall, West
Mr. Smollett (C)	Dumfriesshire
Mr. Ewart (L)	Dumfries
Mr. Shafto (L)	Durham, North
*Mr. Moncrieff (L)	Edinburgh
Mr. Gurney (L)	Falmouth
*Mr. Morgan	Glamorganshire
Mr. Dunlop (L)	Greenock
Mr. Onslow (L)	Guildford
Sir J. C. Jervoise (L)	Hants, South
*Mr. King King (C)	Herefordshire
Mr. Cowper (L)	Hertford
Mr. Baillie (C)	Inverness-shire
Sir E. Dering (L)	Kent, East
Mr. Hartopp (C)	Leicestershire, N.
Mr. Brand (L)	Lewes
Mr. Banks Stanhope (C)	Lincolnshire, North
Mr. Horsfall (C)	Liverpool

Mr. Brookhurst (L)	Macclesfield
Mr. Earle (C)	Maldon
Mr. Bruce	Morayshire
Lord Amberley (L)	Nottingham
Mr. Barrow (C)	Notts, South
Mr. Neate (L)	Oxford
*Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen (L)	Sandwich
Mr. Ingham (L)	Shields, South
Sir A. Hood (C)	Somerset, West
Mr. Trevelyan (L)	Tynemouth
Mr. Leatham (L)	Wakefield
Mr. Long (C)	Wiltshire, North
Mr. Bagnall (C)	Whitby
Lord Hocham (C)	Yorkshire, East.

It is understood that the gentlemen whose names are thus marked (*) are likely to be candidates for other places.

LONGFELLOW IN ENGLAND.

(From the Times.)

Welcome to England! thou whose strains prolong
The glorious bed-roll of our Saxon song:
Ambassador and Pilgrim-Bard in one,
Fresh from thy home—the home of Washington.
On hearths as sacred as thine own, here stands
The loving welcome that thy name commands;
Hearths swept for thee and garnished as a shrine
By trailing garments of thy Muse divine.
Poet of Nature and of Nations, know
Thy fair fame spans the ocean like a bow,
Born from the rain that falls into each life,
Kindled by dreams with loveliest fancies rife;
A radiant arch that with prismatic dyes
Links the two worlds, its keystone in the skies.

The noblest creatures of those dreams of thine,
From Hiawatha to Evangeline,
Here thou wilt find, where'er thy footsteps roam,
Loved as the cherished Lares of each home.
What prouder refrain heartens to the core
Than thou hast sung in brave Excelsior?
Where sounds more gladdening 'mid this earthly
strife

Than the sweet clarions of thy Psalm of Life?
None but the rarest raconteur may grace
The mimic contest where most yield thee place.
Say which, for either, fairer wreaths produce,
Irving's Astoria or thy Flower de Luce?
Which haunted hostel lures more guests within,
Hawthorne's Seven Gables or thy Wayside Inn?
Turning thy pictured page, what varying dyes
Shine through each latticed margin's new surprise!
Here the swart Blacksmith, smirched with grime
and tan,

Tears in his eyes, yet every inch a man.
Here, 'mid the rice-field, heaving his last breath,
The poor Slave-monarch dreams himself to death.
Here, while without loud raves the tempest's din,
Here, while around the revellers brawl within,
The dying Baron thro' the grave's dark goal
Seeks Christ's redeeming passport for his soul.
Who hears not now, stormt down among thy
leaves,

The rain that poured like cataracts from the eaves,
Roared through the kennels, lashed the streaming
panes,
Flooded the squares, the streets, the courts, the lanes,
Raging like seas that o'er some foundering wreck
Swirl thro' the scuppers from the swimming deck?
Cool, teeming, plenteous, soul-refreshing showers
Quaffed by parched earth and by the thirsting
flowers,

Nor less by those who listened to thy song
As, like Lodore's, thy deluge dashed along.
Where subtler solace than thy gentle voice
From riven hearts can draw till griefs rejoice?
Answer, what oft-repeating woe o'erpowers,
That lay serene, the Reaper and the Flowers!
So large thy sympathies, thy hand can trace
Charms in each clime and glory in each race:
So penetrant thy love, its gaze can find
God in the flower, His breathings in the wind;
Mesh with mere hempen coil in Rope-walk spun
All human joys and ills beneath the sun;
Wake with grand echoes of responsive rhymes
Long silent notes of mediæval chimes;
Nay, hear in hush of serried arms arrayed
"The diapason of the cannonade."

'Mid purgatorial fires, in heaven, in hell,
Thy dauntless soul hath lately dared to dwell,
Passing o'er burning marl, where Dante trod
With Virgil's ghost, to Beatrice and God.
Yet, rarely gifted Nature to translate,
Reflect not others, thus: thyself create.
Ring out once more in thy own golden lines
Life's inner meaning, not the Florentine's—
Thou who hast given thy dreamings to our sight,
And syllabled the Voices of the Night:
Thou who hast sung, as none but thou could sing,
The tender legend of the Angel-King:
Thou who around with affluent hand hast thrown
The heavenly largess of thy benison,
Regarding none as alien to thy breast—
Columbia's Poet, hail as England's Guest!

C. K.

Miscellaneous News.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—Number of patients for the week ending July 4, 1,159, of which 394 were new cases.

A PARROT CALLED AS A WITNESS.—At the Wandsworth Police-court on Wednesday, a lady and gentleman disputed the ownership of a parrot. The bird was brought into court, and handed to each of them in turn. It pecked at the gentleman, and showed signs of affection for the lady; so the magistrate ordered it to be given up to the lady, drawing the conclusion that she was the true owner.

ANOTHER RISK ALLAH TRIAL.—The action brought by Risk Allah against the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company was brought to a conclusion on Wednesday. The defence was that there was no trustworthy information as to the contents of the bag, packed as it was by Risk Allah himself, which fell into the Bosphorus. It was further pointed out that no human being besides the plaintiff could say whether he fell into the water accidentally or threw himself in. The jury, after two hours' consultation, found that there was not the slightest chance of their agreeing to a verdict. They were therefore discharged.

A TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.—Archbishop Manning has received a deputation from the committee of the Temperance Hygiene Hospital, whose object is to introduce their system first into workhouse infirmaries. It was explained to the archbishop that the principle on which the promoters worked was the abolition of the use of drugs and alcohol, and the cure of diseases by removing the cause. Their theory was, "a proper attention to the skin, skilfully proportioned as to time, quantity, and temperature, with good air and other appliances." Dr. Manning's assistance was asked in getting the system tested in some of the workhouse infirmaries, and his grace, considering the purpose a commendable one, promised all the aid in his power.

BANQUET TO MR. CYRUS W. FIELD.—On Wednesday evening a banquet was given at Willis's Rooms, to celebrate the successful laying of the Atlantic cable, 1866, and to honour Mr. Cyrus W. Field as the originator of the project. The Duke of Argyll occupied the chair, and amongst those present were the Earl of Denbigh, Lord Dufferin, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Lord Morley, Sir John Pakington, Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. John Bright, M.P., Sir Samuel Canning, Sir James Anderson, Mr. Clifford, C.E., Sir A. Glass, Mr. Ralph Elcott, and Captain Moriarty, R.N. In reply to the toast of the evening, Mr. Cyrus Field dwelt at length on the benefits that would accrue to the world from the extension of telegraphic agencies, and also the necessity of maintaining peace between England and America. In responding to the sentiment of "The Commercial Prosperity of England and the United States," Mr. John Bright said that the accomplishment of telegraphic communication between England and America was one of the greatest achievements ever conceived by modern science, and was a valuable means of cementing the union of the two greatest countries of the world. He reviewed at length the history of England from 1815 to 1841, with a view to prove that the present heavily taxed condition of America might be favourably contrasted with the state of things in England during the period to which he referred. He contended that all the differences that existed between the New World and the Old arose rather from a misunderstanding than from a wish on either side to commence hostilities. The Anglo-Saxon race, he said, was almost equally divided between England and America, and that man would be an enemy of the human race who would endeavour to excite animosity between two nations, the populations of which were so nearly allied by blood. The hon. gentleman then passed a high and eloquent eulogium on all concerned in the laying of the Atlantic cable, and concluded by trusting that it would be the means of preserving the peace of Europe and the world.

REEDHAM ASYLUM FOR FATHERLESS CHILDREN.—On Tuesday the twenty-fourth anniversary of this institution was celebrated at Reedham. The proceedings commenced with a public examination of the elder scholars, under the presidency of Mr. J. F. Sargood. The examination was conducted by Mr. Curtis, head master of the Borough-road Training Schools, and comprised the usual branches of an English education, in all of which the answers of the pupils were most satisfactory. Luncheon was provided in a large marquee, and the afternoon was devoted to an examination of the infants, of whom there are fifty-nine in the institution. It was stated with thankfulness, that although there were at present 250 children resident in the asylum not one of them was invalid. The committee deeply regretted the necessity which had been laid upon them at the recent election to reduce the number of admissions, partly owing to deficient accommodation, but chiefly through want of funds. The chairman said that the action of the institution was only curtailed by the means placed at the disposition of the committee, and it would be a most delightful thing to them if the public would double the present amount of their subscriptions, so that the building itself might be enlarged, and the number of the children received in it be augmented. The committee wished to provide a new infirmary as soon as possible. It had been found that this would involve an outlay of 8000l., and if this amount, or even the half of it, could be collected that day, they would not have met together in vain. A gentleman present had already promised to give one-tenth of that sum in order that the thing might be started. Mr. Aveling said it ought to be known that the "person" referred to was the chairman himself—an announcement which was received with loud applause. The Rev. T. W. Aveling, in the course of an interesting address, alluded to the growing importance and usefulness of the institution as an argument why it should receive increased support. Dr. Rose and Rev. A. Hannay also addressed the company, after which there was an adjournment to the hall to witness the distribution of prizes. The proceedings were brought to a close by the infants, under the care of Miss Heath, delivering a most amusing dialogue. During the day about 400l. was subscribed towards enlarging the institution.

Literature.

ALEXANDER SMITH'S "LAST LEAVES."*

We are not sorry to have a memento of the genius of Alexander Smith. It is true that some of these "Last Leaves" are but very slight, obviously no more than what the editor calls "the spray of the writer's mind"; but they are pleasing memorials of one whose early and unexpected death, at the very time when his ripening powers gave promise of greater works than any he had hitherto produced, greatly deepened the interest which his genius had awakened. For a time he was under-estimated by the public; the extravagant praise which his "Life Drama" called forth was followed by a reaction, to which Professor Aytoun's clever satire on the spasmodic school materially contributed. His "City Poems" were as much undervalued as the "Life Drama" had been overpraised; and it was not until the appearance of "Dreamthorp" that he won any great amount of popular applause. That exquisite volume of essays proved that whatever his merits as a poet, he had remarkable delicacy and beauty as a writer of prose, and that impression was amply confirmed by the subsequent volumes from his pen. "Alfred Hagart's Household" was unfortunately injured, its unity of conception destroyed, and its general effect marred, by the desire of the publishers, to which in an evil moment he yielded, to expand the one volume, which was all that was originally intended, into two. But "The Summer in Skye" was almost a perfect book of its kind, full of vivid pictures of unfamiliar scenes and characters, rich and quiet humour, reckless adventure, all clothed in an exquisite style. These books gave the promise of an active and successful literary life, whose rewards were only just opening to him, when he fell a victim to a disease which is growing alarmingly frequent in our time,—an overworked brain. "If," says his biographer, "his brain would have decisively given way, thus making rest imperative, he might have been alive and with us; but the unhappy brain would not do this, and so long as it did not fail, his sense of duty would insist on working it. And all the time he looked so well that, thinking his complaint 'some form of mere hypochondria, in one's wisdom, as thinking this the scientific treatment of the disorder, one rather flattered at 'than sympathised with him.' There is something sad and tragic in this touching record. We wish only that it might serve as a warning to others. Unhappily, the struggle for existence is too often, as it was with poor Smith, so hard, and its demands so pressing, that there is not room for that rest, essential even to a wise use of the intellectual powers.

The life of a man like Alexander Smith does not often supply much material for biography. His early education seems to have been of the most ordinary character, and such literary culture as he possessed was the fruit of his own diligent application. It is greatly to his credit, therefore, that besides acquiring a large store of general information, he was on his own ground, that of English Poetry and Belles Lettres, "an unusually well-read man even among men professedly literary." He was at first employed along with his father as a pattern designer, but his literary tastes developed themselves in poetic contributions to a Glasgow paper, some of which, when collected and republished, attracted the notice of Mr. Gilfillan, to whom he owed much for a favourable introduction into London literary circles. The appearance of the "Life Drama" secured him a still higher reputation, and his appointment as secretary to the Edinburgh University enabled him to dedicate himself to a literary life. This is really all that is to be told of his life's story, the only incidents which diversified it, being the publication of his various volumes. His course must have been one of hard struggle. The income of his secretariat was but small, and with the demands of his increasing family needed such supplement as his writings could afford; and it was not until he commenced to write prose that these were very productive. With his increased fame he might have looked forward to something more lucrative, had not his overtaxed powers broken down under the pressure put upon them. As it is, his life may serve rather as a warning to young literary aspirants. He was a man of unquestionable genius, and early attracted considerable notice, and yet his life was a perpetual struggle. We commend his biographer for not indulging in

any foolish complaints about unrecognised and unrewarded powers, but rather contenting himself with a simple statement of facts, leaving them to make their own impression. The truth is, it is only in rare cases that a literary career can be highly remunerative. Even early success, however pleasing and gratifying to the feelings, does not often secure that amount of material advantage which the outside world supposes; and if those of eminent abilities find the struggle so hard and wearying, men of inferior calibre will do wisely to choose a course which, though less attractive to youthful ambition, will very probably yield more of those substantial results, which, however prosaic they may seem, cannot be dispensed with.

The biographer would have performed his task better if his memoir had been shorter. He has but little to tell, and it was not necessary to lengthen it out by the introduction of matter which to some extent at least is irrelevant. Thus he treats us to a long episode about one Hugh Macdonald, a companion of Smith's, whose opinions on poets and poetry he records with considerable fulness. He may have been a very original character, but we cannot see that his somewhat remarkable criticisms on our great poets have any special relation to this memoir, or are likely to be very interesting to the general reader. We have recently had sketches enough of his type, done in much better style, and are not particularly grateful for this addition to the number. Still Mr. Alexander was a sincere and honest admirer of his friend, and has given us on the whole, a fair and trustworthy estimate of his character and merits, which we like all the better, because it is not written in a strain of indiscriminate eulogy. We learn to like the author more for the account that is here given us of the man. The genuine simplicity of his nature, the absence of that egotism and excessive irritability too often characteristic of the poetic race, his anxiety to discharge the various duties of life faithfully, instead of making his genius an excuse for the lack of the more homely virtues of daily life, the thorough geniality and kindness of his spirit all interest us in his favour. We are especially pleased with the account of the relations between him and his great critic Professor Aytoun. The two men met, and mutual intercourse taught them to respect and appreciate each other, the elder and more experienced one kindly lending the help of his influence and counsel for the benefit of his struggling junior. Their relations were very different from those of some other men in similar circumstances, and do equal credit to the head and heart of both. The essays contained in the volume are republications. They are considerably diversified both in subject and merit, and though few of them, if any, are entitled to rank among his best productions, they are as a whole sufficiently characteristic of the genius of the writer. The admirers of Alexander Smith, and they are not a few, will give a cordial welcome both to this truthful sketch of the author, and this collection of his fugitive pieces.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood has a political article which is noteworthy, not because of its freshness or power—for it is really only a *rechauffé* of things it has said twenty times before with quite as much point and almost as much bitterness—but because it is an indication of the tactics the Tories are intending to pursue. The *Saturday Review* has of late been in the habit of devoting an article almost weekly to abuse of Mr. Gladstone, the contrast being often very marked between the quasi-Liberal tone of some article on the topic of the week and this tirade of abuse directed against the Liberal leader. It is not a bad piece of policy. Mr. Gladstone is the only possible leader of the party, not because it has no other able men, but because the country has enthusiastically adopted him, and will not allow him to be set aside. To discredit him will, therefore, be a real injury to the cause, and abuse of the plaintiff's attorney may thus do more effectual service than more solid argument. Blackwood has taken up this line this month, and devotes a long paper, under the title of "Shall we follow this man?" to a review of his career, in which all his actions are represented in the most false and distorted style. This kind of malevolent attack, however, will find its own level. There is a class of snobbish politicians, specially abundant in the metropolis, whom it may please, but the people honour their leader all the more for the persistent attacks upon him, which prove, at least, how effectual are the blows he has dealt to aristocratic exclusiveness. Cornelius O'Dowd also takes the Opposition and castigates them in his own style, which is too absurd to provoke any very serious feeling. We are glad to find that Motley receives a very generous notice here, despite his avowal of principles very contrary to old Ebony's creed. "Grace Owen's Engagement" is a clever tale, spoiled by too sensational and tragic an ending.

The *Christian Observer*, in an article on the "partial inspiration" of Holy Scripture, takes Dr. Balaigh to task for his recent utterances, but the whole tone of the article only indicates the inability of the writer to realise the position of those whom he undertakes to criticise. He is anxious to maintain a theory which he conscientiously holds and believes to be essential to the defence of Christianity, but he does not touch the real difficulties, and his argument, though very well meant, will have no effect on any mind that has considered the subject. The writer on "Public Affairs" takes a very gloomy view of the Evangelical party, "which," he tells us, "has been loosed from its ancient moorings and has begun to float down with the stream." There is reason for the fear. The Evangelicals have in many cases suffered their Churchism to overpower every other sentiment, and now they are reaping the whirlwind for the wind which they have sown. Still, they need not fear when they have got such a poet as Martin F. Tupper to rally their failing courage, the appearance of whose Protestant ballads is here greeted with delight.

Fraser has a powerful and eloquent paper on the "Elements of Romanism," philosophically examining its foundation principles, and exhibiting its unfitness to meet the special wants of this age. An interesting article on the "Culture of Emerson," a clever critique on the Portrait Exhibition at South Kensington, a review of Mr. Kinglake's new volumes, and an able essay by Mr. Cliffe Leslie on "Political Economy and the Rate of Wages," are the principal features of a number which is more solid than entertaining.

In the *Cornhill* Mr. Matthew Arnold, in another of his deeply interesting but eminently unsatisfactory papers on "Anarchy and Authority," has taken up the question of the Irish Church, but we cannot say that he has thrown much light upon it. The true Hellenistic plan, which would have been adopted if there had been opportunity for the full play of thought upon the subject, would have been the endowment of all sects. But the opinion of thinkers and statesmen has been overborne by Nonconformists with their strong Hebraistic tendencies, and their devotion to a mere "fetish" or mechanical maxim. Any attempt to argue the question with Mr. Arnold would be idle, for he quietly assumes a lofty position of superiority from which he deals out his criticism to those on a lower level. We would, however, suggest to him that perhaps it is hardly consistent with that sweetness on which he so strongly insists as an essential part of culture, to designate what is to those who hold it a great principle, a Nonconformist "fetish" or mechanical maxim. Possibly we are very stupid Philistines, but still we believe that we have at least some show of reason for maintaining that our Lord's words, "My kingdom is not of this world" have a bearing on the question of Church Establishments, and even if his own theory as to Nonconformist influence in determining the Liberal policy be correct, there is pretty strong proof that our principle has not become a "mere piece of petrification." The *Cornhill* has some capital papers on "Earthquakes," "Witches and their Craft," and "Early English Newspapers," full of curious information not generally accessible.

The *Eclectic Review* is remarkable for the sublime unconsciousness it shows as to the state of the outside world to which it is addressed. There is not a word on any topic of the day, not a single article that would not have done for July of last year, or might not do for July of next year. There has been too much of this kind of thing in the *Eclectic* lately, and it must be fatal to the success of any magazine.

St. Pauls gives the opening chapters of a story whose scene is laid in a small German town, "The Sacristan's Household." It is too early to speak of its merits yet, but it opens well. There is an interesting sketch of "Balzac at Home." There is a second article on "How to Settle the Eastern Question." The author argues with considerable power, but we cannot acquiesce in its conclusions. "Phineas Finn" continues rather prosy, and makes but little progress. Yet there are in it signs of power which we dare say will yet produce something more worthy of the author than the recent portions have been.

Once a Week, under its new management, is marked by revived energy and interest. The present part completes Mr. Charles Reade's "Foul Play," which is unquestionably powerful, though marked by some of its author's characteristic faults. We are not much struck with the portraits of Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Gladstone with which the part is adorned. That of Mr. Gladstone in particular, is a very unpleasant likeness.

We have also received the second number of the new series of the *Gentleman's Magazine* in its fresh and attractive garb, *Temple Bar*, *Belgravia*, the *Oak*, and the *Argosy*, all of which cater most abundantly and pleasantly for the wants of the lovers of light literature; *Happy Hours*, the *Christian World Magazine*, the *People's Magazine*, *Cassell's Magazine*, and the *Quiver*, which are marked by all their usual spirit and variety; *Aunt Judy's Magazine*, as usual, full of good things for our girls; the *Victoria*, the *Evangelical*, and the *Christian Witness*, to which we cannot possibly give any further notice to-day.

BRIEF NOTICES.

What Should we Drink? An Inquiry suggested by Mr. E. L. Beckwith's "Practical Notes on Wine." By JAMES L. DENMAN (Longman). Mr. Denman is very

* *Last Leaves: Sketches and Criticisms.* By ALEXANDER SMITH. Edited, with a Memoir, by P. P. ALEXANDER, M.A. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

honourably known as the introducer and advocate of Greek wines into England, and has cleverly taken advantage of Mr. Beckwith's "Notes" once more to vindicate the superior purity of those to any wines that are ordinarily consumed in England. The tale is this—Mr. Beckwith pronounces with great fervour in praise of the wines of France, Spain, and Portugal. Mr. Denman, after exposing some inconsistencies, puts the very pertinent question—Now what are these boasted wines, and how are they made? What are they? Well, we can only say that the revelations given in this pamphlet are such as to cause any champagne, port or sherry drinker to pause before he buys another bottle or drinks another glass of perhaps his favourite liquor. If Mr. Denman keeps up this controversy, he will either add largely to the numbers of total abstainers, or to the number of Greek wine consumers—perhaps both.

Of minor publications we have:—*The Hermit of Stenforf*. A Swedish Tale. By EMILY NONNEN. (F. Warne and Co.) A pretty story, well told, but in many respects unlikely and over-drawn. Nevertheless it will be a favourite with its juvenile readers.—*The Silver Trumpet and other Allegories*. By E. H. (F. Warne and Co.) These allegories for children are partly intended by the authoress to help Sunday-school teachers in giving moral and religious lessons to their young charge, and at the same time so thoroughly to interest them that the lessons conveyed may not be forgotten. We fancy she will be successful wherever her little book is known; it is most attractive in its style.—*Bible Jewels*. By the Rev. RICHARD NEWTON, D.D. (London: S. W. Partridge and Co.) Lessons drawn from the various jewels mentioned in the Bible; illustrated by anecdotes, some of them much to the point. Suitable for Sunday-school reading.—*Our Sunday-school Senior Class*. By J. A. COOPER, F.R.S.L. This is a prize essay of the Sunday School Union putting forward the desirability of retaining the senior classes as long as possible, and containing some very valuable advice as to the best means of so doing, and as to the best method of securing the improvement of scholars. We hope it may be widely read.—*The Young Men's Class*. By W. S. BLACKETT. (Sunday School Union.) Some practical suggestions on the management of adult classes on the Sunday-school with useful lessons.—*Evening Devotions for Schools*. By the Rev. E. LATHAM, M.A., one of the Assistant Masters in Repton School. (London: Bamrose and Sons.) A book of prayers for evening worship in schools, specially adapted to young people.—*Sunday Lessons for Use in Families and Sunday-schools*. Compiled by the Rev. H. B. BROWN, M.A. (London: F. Pitman.) Texts for each Sunday in the year embracing the "cardinal doctrines" and general duties of Christianity.—*Stories of Christ the Lord*. By HARRIET CAVE. (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.) These are stories from Christ's life in simple verse, such as all children love and can understand.—*Leaves from a Mother's Journal*. By the Author of "Feed my Lambs." (London: J. Nisbet and Co.) A mother's history of three of her children who died very young. We are not sure of the wisdom of publishing these private memorials of a mother, though they are doubtless deeply interesting to surviving friends.—*Daily Meditations for Children*. By Mrs. G. W. HINSDALE. (London: Strahan and Co.) Short passages from Scripture, with such thoughts as any child able to read may understand and profit by; learning to shape its thoughts somewhat after the same fashion.—*The Biblical Treasury*. (Sunday School Union.) A collection of Scriptural illustrations for the use of Sunday-school teachers; contains much valuable information.—*Father Fernie*. By JAMES NICHOLSON. (Glasgow: Porteous Brothers.) A tale and a study, including the life, wayside lessons, and poems of a botanist and one of nature's poets. A treat to those who wish to study botany in the form of a story.

Miscellaneous.

A FEARFUL TRAGEDY took place at Liverpool on Friday. Mr. Joseph Jones, the managing clerk of a firm of coal proprietors, had an altercation with his wife in the office of his employers, and then attempted to murder her with a letter-press handle. The attention of some persons in the street was attracted by the poor woman's cries, and upon their entering the office to ascertain what was the matter, Jones took up a razor and committed suicide in their presence.

SIR MORTON PETO AND MESSRS. BETTS AND CRAMPTON, whose bankruptcy took place about twelve months ago, appeared on Monday before Mr. Commissioner Winslow, passed their examinations unopposed, and received immediate orders of discharge. In the course of the proceedings it was stated that, although the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company suspended the prosecution of their claim of £6,000,000, they did not abandon their right to prove for that amount. The commissioner, in granting the orders of discharge, expressed no opinion on the matters in dispute between the railway company and the bankrupts. The only observation he would make was that, although many long investigations had taken place, the bankrupts had had no opportunity of stating their version of the case in the slightest degree.

ANOTHER CASE OF BABY FARMING.—A case of gross inhumanity to an infant, and an illustration of what is termed "baby farming," has formed the

subject of inquiry in Bethnal-green. A child, eight months old, had been consigned by its mother, a single woman in service, to the care of a Mrs. Moorer, who was paid 2s. 6d. a week for keeping it. The woman was accustomed to go out for ten or twelve hours at a time, leaving the child locked up in her bedroom, and without any means of sustenance whatever. To starvation was added ill-treatment, in the shape of black eyes, &c., and when at last the wretched little sufferer died, and a post-mortem examination was made, the body weighed only 8lbs. It was emaciated in the last degree, and every organ was shrivelled and diminutive. The coroner adjourned the inquest to enable Mrs. Moorer to obtain legal assistance. The woman was afterwards mobbed by the indignant mothers of Bethnal-green.

THE LABOUR QUESTION.—On Saturday there was a meeting of the Social Science Association, at which a committee was appointed to "spread information on the natural laws which regulate wages, and to aid in the removal of the barriers now often existing between employers and workmen." Mr. Gladstone, who presided, pointed out that in approaching the working classes on these questions they should be recognised in the character of men qualified and entitled to form a judgment upon the measures proposed for their good. The more largely this recognition was made the greater would be the progress in bringing about an agreement on those points in which conciliation was required. Resolutions were adopted approving of combinations for legitimate purposes; of the principle of courts of conciliation as existing in Nottingham; and recommending the general adoption of partnerships of industry.

IMPORTANT RATEPAYING DECISION.—A case of great consequence, as affecting the political status of the compound householder, has been decided by the Court of Common Pleas. A Mr. Lawson is the owner of a house in Queen-street, Sunderland, which contains six rooms, and each is let to a separate tenant. Neither the landlord nor any one representing him resides on the premises. Previously to the passing of the Reform Act of last year Mr. Lawson paid all rates, but since then the overseers have rated each occupier separately. The question was whether this was right, and it depended upon the construction of the seventh section of the Act, which is in effect that where any dwelling-house or tenement shall be wholly let out in apartments or lodgings, not separately rated, then the owner shall be rated. The Court unanimously held that the occupiers were not entitled to be severally rated, and that the rate should be made out in the name of the landlord. This decision will keep off the register large numbers of the working classes in the North of England.

Gleanings.

Mr. E. D. Young will shortly publish an account of his search after Livingstone.

Outside vehicles were driven along the Thames embankment for the first time on Friday.

Two deaths of haymakers near Castlebar, county Mayo, are attributed to sunstroke.

Father Hyacinth, the celebrated preacher, is coming to England to study the religious movement here.

Open-air *cafés* are called for by a *Pall Mall Gazette* correspondent. He suggests the mall of St. James's Park as the place for a beginning.

The *Lancet* hears that no less than 530 gentlemen have intimated their intention of entering the matriculation examination at the University of London. This is, perhaps, the largest number on record.

According to the *Melbourne Argus*, the preservation and exportation of meat is rapidly rising in importance in the colony, and promises soon to become a very valuable industry.

"General," said Major Jack Downing, "I always observe that those people who have a great deal to say about being ready to shed their last drop of blood are amazin' particular about the first drop."

Cincinnati has just established a Strangers' Home, where persons sojourning in the city for a night or so, and who are out of money, may find clean and comfortable lodgings and meals. It is under the direction of the Young Men's Christian Association.

A theological student, supposed to be deficient in judgment, in the course of a class examination, was asked by a professor, "Pray, Mr. E., how would you discover a fool?" "By the questions he would ask," said Mr. E.

Dr. A. Gunther, of the British Museum, has arrived at the conclusion that whitebait are young herrings. The late Mr. Yarrell, who is followed by most naturalists, regarded whitebait as a distinct fish.

It has become a common practice for umbrella-stealers in the guise of female servants to answer in person advertisements for cooks, housemaids, or general servants, and to depart after having secreted an umbrella under the shawl or dress.

A Portsmouth citizen, in telling about a wonderful parrot hanging in a cage from the window of a house which he often passed, said, "It cries 'Stop thief' so naturally that every time I hear it I always stop!"

A Minnesota editor says that a man came into his office to advertise for a lost dog, and that such was the wonderful power of advertising, the dog walked into the office while he was writing out the advertisement.

In consequence of the fatal accident to five boys who were drowned while bathing a short time since at Christchurch, in Hants, the authorities of that town have resolved upon forming a proper bathing-place there.

A SCHOOLMASTER ABROAD.—A subscription paper was lately circulated with the following object in view:—"We subscribe and pay the amount opposite our names for the purpose of paying the organist and a boy to blow the same."

The *Leader* concludes an article on the Bishop of Oxford's speech, by asking the following questions:—"What sort of faith in religion is this, which refuses to back it to win without heavy odds in its favour? Is our good Lord of Oxford thinking of changing his name? Or would he hereafter tempt men to call him Bishop *Bewilderedforce*?"

Certain enterprising American newspaper proprietors are said to be making arrangements for fitting up a composing-room and a small stereo foundry on board some of the mail packets, so as to have the English news all set up and cast into columns ready for use as soon as the vessel arrives in port.

Mr. Frank Buckland announces that a fall of oyster spat has just occurred, which, though somewhat partial, is stated to be "such a sight as has not been seen since the year 1859." As an oyster requires to be usually from three to four years old before it is fit for consumption, we shall have to wait some time yet before we get the benefit.

A LEGACY WITH A SINGULAR PROVISION.—A strange legacy of one thousand dollars is left to the Reformed Church of Peaback, New Jersey, by the will of Jacob J. Tiger, deceased, upon condition that the church grounds be kept free from Canada thistles and wild carrots, and if the growth of such foul weeds are permitted to any extent, then the legacy is to be forfeited.

"Papa, I think you told a fib in the pulpit to-day," said a little son of a clergyman. "Why, what do you mean?" asked the father. "You said," continued the child, "'One word more, and I have done.' Then you went on and said a great many more words. The people expected you'd leave off, 'cause you promised them; but you didn't, and kept on preaching a long while after the time was up, and after they smelt the overdone joint."

A DAUGHTER'S SUBMARINE TELEGRAM.—At the banquet to Mr. Cyrus Field, the Duke of Argyll despatched a very friendly message to a daughter of Mr. Field who remains at home. The young lady returned this felicitous answer:—"New York, 4.5 p.m.—I thank you most sincerely for the kind words you have spoken of my father, causing me to feel that we are friends, although our acquaintance is thus made across the sea and in a moment of time."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—NERVOUS DEBILITY.—Persons who feel weak, low, and nervous, may rest assured some serious ailment is looming in the distance, against which instance action should be taken. Holloway's Pills present the ready means of exciting energetic action on the liver, liberating accumulated bile, and lifting at once a load from the spirits, and expelling a poison from the body. This simple and natural method of remedying the first tendency to disease gives present ease, and ensures future safety. The pallid, and all those who are losing flesh, should try these Pills, which are especially useful when the digestive and other functions are imperfectly performed, and demand immediate correction, or in after years neither mind nor body will be developed.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

JONES.—May 26, at Trevandrum, Travancore, India, the wife of the Rev. J. Emylin Jones, of the London Missionary Society, of a son.

TURNER.—May 1, at Kong-Kong, the wife of the Rev. F. S. Turner, B.A., of a son.

MARTIN.—June 29, at Eglintoun, Antrim-road, Belfast, the wife of the Rev. James Martin, of a daughter.

ROBINSON.—July 3, at Havelock Villa, Northfleet, the wife of Mr. J. J. Robinson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

DAVIES-DAIDY.—March 19, at Auckland, New Zealand, by the Rev. F. J. Mandeno, assisted by the Rev. A. Macdonald, the Rev. J. T. Warlow Davies, M.A., minister of Albert-street Congregational Chapel, to Maryanne Maria, second daughter of W. C. Daidy, Esq., J.P., of the above place.

BRIDGMAN-PINSENT.—June 25, at the Congregational chapel, Kingstons, by the Rev. J. Taylor, assisted by the Rev. R. W. Row, Mr. J. S. Bridgman, of Torquay, to Martha, second daughter of the late Mr. PinSENT, of Ware.

BRADON-EFFORD.—June 25, at the Independent chapel, Brixham, Devon, only surviving son of the late Mr. Thomas Bradon, Exeter, to Annie, only daughter of Mr. J. J. Efford, Dartmouth.

SELLS-WALKER.—June 2, at Higher Broughton Congregational church, Manchester, by the Rev. J. Muncester, the Rev. Vincent Perronet Sells, of Bristol, to Emma, daughter of the late James Walker, of Ashley Down, Horfield, Gloucestershire.

SHARP-SPINK.—June 27, at Hallfield Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Makepeace, Mr. Thomas Sharp, of Norwood Green, Hipperholme, to Miss M. Spink, of Horton.

BURROUGHS-SCARFE.—June 28, at the Baptist chapel, Kenninghall, by the Rev. J. W. Ewing, Frederic Burroughs, Winfarthing, to Zillah, eldest daughter of Robert Scarfe, Shelfanger.

PERKINS-STOKES.—June 30, at the Collegiate Church, (Nonconformist), Leicester, by the Rev. Joseph Williams, Mr. Walker Perkins, to Rhoda Pearce, eldest daughter of Mr. H. Stokes, of Belgrave-gate. This being the first marriage in this church, a Bible was presented to the newly-married couple.

COMBER-TUKE.—July 1, at the Independent chapel, Chulmleigh, North Devon, by the Rev. John Woodgar, Mr. Thomas James Comber, of Denmark-road, Lambeth, to Harriet, second daughter of the late Mr. John Tuke, of Chulmleigh.

IBBERSON-SHEARMAN.—July 1, at Camberwell-green Chapel, by the Rev. C. Stanford, the Rev. W. H. Ibberson, to Ruth, daughter of Mr. Shearman, of Camberwell.

STOKES-MAWBY.—July 2, at the Congregational chapel, Uppingham, by the Rev. H. F. Walker, Mr. Henry Stokes, of Leicester, to Miss Lucy Mawby, of Uppingham.

STOCKTON-DEAVILLE.—July 2, at Cavendish-street Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. Dr. Parker, Edwin Charles, eldest son of Mr. J. Stockton, of Hulme, to Martha Ann, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Deaville, of Chorlton-upon-Medlock.

TREASURE-GUTHRIE.—July 2, at Trevor Chapel, Brompton, by the Rev. W. M. Statham, G. W. Treasure, Esq., of North-end, Fulham, to Sarah, relict of the late Robert Guthrie, Esq., and daughter of the late James Wild, Esq., of North-end Villa, Fulham.

HARWOOD—BING.—July 2, at the Union Chapel, Hands worth, by the Rev. Charles Vince, H. Millington Harwood, to Emily, youngest daughter of the late William Bing, Esq., of Bridgnorth.

BATELY—GOFFIN.—July 2, at the Baptist church, Gorton, by the Rev. W. Allnutt, M.A., Stephen Samuel Bately, of Bradwell, to Zipporah Keriah, third daughter of John Goffin, Esq., Southtown, Yarmouth.

DODSWORTH—DRIVER.—July 2, at the Primitive Methodist chapel, New Malton, by the Rev. L. F. Armitage, of Bishop Auckland, the Rev. J. Dodsworth, Primitive Methodist minister, to Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. John Driver, of Greenfield House, Morley.

NAYLOR—WATERER.—July 4, at Salem Chapel, Wakefield, by the Rev. J. Eastwood, Mr. James E. Naylor, Leeds, to Anna, youngest daughter of the late Benjamin Waterer, of Wakefield.

RIDINGS—ABBOTT.—July 4, at the Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Oldham-street, Manchester, by the Rev. Mr. Sugden, Mr. John Benjamin Ridings, of Moston, to Elizabeth, third daughter of Mr. John Abbott, Strangeways, Manchester.

CARTER—HANKINS.—July 4, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, by the Rev. W. Howison, of Waiworth-road Chapel, Mr. W. D. Carter, of Belgrave-road, South Norwood, to Miss Jane A. Hankins, of Smyrna-grove, Peckham.

WHITEHEAD—HANDLEY.—July 4, at East-parade Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. E. R. Conder, Mr. George Whitehead, to Miss Elizabeth Handley, both of Leeds.

THOMPSON—GREENWOOD.—July 6, at Westgate Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Bloomfield, Mr. Joseph Thompson, to Miss Mary Greenwood, both of Calverley.

DEATH.

JONES.—May 31, at Colombo, Ceylon, in the twenty-eighth year of his age, Arthur Augustus, the eldest son of the Rev. Eliezer Jones, of Ipswich.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, July 1.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,660,320	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	21,660,320
	£36,660,320		£36,660,320

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,558,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,214,394
Reserve	3,121,880	Other Securities	3,984,900
Public Deposits	7,021,048	Notes	11,888,635
Other Deposits	21,497,262	Gold & Silver Coin	1,091,001
Seven Day and other			
Bills	452,471		
	£46,645,661		£46,645,661

July 2, 1868.

GEORGE FORBES, Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, London, Monday, July 6.

We had a large supply of English wheat to this morning's market, which met a slow sale, and was not all cleared off at a considerable reduction on the rates of this day's night. Foreign 1s. to 2s. per qr. cheaper, with a slow retail demand. Barley for grinding purposes 1s. per quarter cheaper. There is a very large arrival of oats for the week, 111,000 quarters being reported from all parts. The continued dry weather and unsatisfactory accounts of this crop has strengthened the feeling for this article, and many importers prefer landing to accepting the present reduced quotations. The trade recovered the depression of Friday, and we quote prices generally the same as Monday last. Beans and peas are 1s. to 2s. dearer.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent, red, old	69 to 70	
Ditto new	61 to 68	
White, old	69 to 71	
" new	64 to 71	
Foreign red	64 to 67	
" white	67 to 72	
BARLEY—		
English malting	34 to 35	
Chevalier	37 to 45	
Distilling	38 to 40	
Foreign	35 to 40	
MALT—		
Pale	— to —	
Chevalier	— to —	
Brown	54 to 68	
BEANS—		
Tickers	43 to 45	
Harrow	44 to 47	
Small	— to —	
Egyptian	43 to 44	
PEAS—		
Grey	43 to 45	
Maple	41 to 46	
White	42 to 46	
Boilers	42 to 46	
Foreign, white	41 to 42	
RYE	40 to 42	
OATS—		
English feed	35 to 38	
" potatoes	29 to 34	
Scotch feed	— to —	
" potatoes	— to —	
Irish black	22 to 25	
" white	22 to 25	
Foreign feed	23 to 28	
FLOUR—		
Town made	55 to 60	
Country Marks	49 to 50	
Norfolk & Suffolk	46 to 47	

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, July 4.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 10d.; household ditto, 7d. to 8d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

LONDON, Monday, July 6.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 8,419 head. At the corresponding period in 1867 we received 10,843; in 1866, 14,754; in 1865, 17,053; in 1864, 10,230; and in 1863, 14,333 head. There was about an average supply of foreign stock on sale here to-day, but its general quality was by no means first-rate. About 800 beasts were on offer from Algeria, in very poor condition. The prices realised for them were very low. Sales progressed slowly, and prices had a very drooping tendency. The arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts was rather on the increase, but in a poor condition. Nearly all breeds met a slow inquiry; and prices, compared with Monday last, gave way fully 2d. per 8 lbs. The best Scots and crosses sold at 4s. 10d. per 8 lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 2,200 shorthorns, Scots, and crosses; from other parts of England, 1,200 various breeds; from Scotland, 10 Scots and crosses. The supply of sheep was heavy, and, on the whole, the quality of the stock was good. Sales progressed heavily, at a decline in the quotations of quite 2d. per 8 lbs. The best Downs and half-breeds changed hands at 4s. 10d. per 8 lbs. Lambs were in full average supply and good request, viz., from 5s. 2d. to 6s. 2d. per 8 lbs. Calves moved off slowly, at 2d. per 8 lbs. less money. The top figure was 5s. per 8 lbs. The supply of pigs was only moderate, the highest price being 4s. 2d. per 8 lbs.

Per 8 lbs. to sink the Offal.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 0 to 3 2	Prime Southdown	4 8 to 4 10
Second quality	3 4 to 3 10	Lambs	5 4 to 6 2
Prime large oxen	4 0 to 4 6	Lge. coarse calves	3 6 to 4 0
Prime Scots, &c.	4 8 to 4 10	Prime small	4 6 to 5 0
Coarse inf. sheep	3 2 to 3 10	Large hogs	3 4 to 3 8
Second quality	4 0 to 4 2	Meatm. porkers	3 10 to 4 2
Pr. coarse woolled	4 4 to 4 6		

Snuckling calves, 22s. to 26s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 23s. to 26s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, July 6.

Although the supplies of meat on sale in these markets are only moderate, trade generally is heavy, on lower terms. No imports of foreign meat since our last report.

Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inf. mutton	3 2 to 3 6	Inf. mutton	3 2 to 3 6
Middling ditto	3 6 to 3 8	Middling ditto	3 6 to 3 8
Prime large do.	3 10 to 4 0	Prime ditto	4 2 to 4 6
Do. small do.	4 2 to 4 4	Veal	3 4 to 4 4
Large pork	3 0 to 3 8	Lamb	4 4 to 4 8
Small pork	3 10 to 4 6		

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, London, Saturday, July 4.—Forced fruits are in excess of the demand, and prices therefore have a downward tendency. The supply of strawberries is more limited than it has hitherto been. Cauliflowers and other vegetables are beginning to show the ill effects of the continued dry weather. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, stocks, lily of the valley, pelargoniums, fuchsias, mignonette, and roses.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, July 6.—Our market continues without alteration, trade being exceedingly inactive. Reports from the various districts are hardly so favourable, the long-continued drought having begun to affect the plantations in the uplands, giving the plant a sickly appearance. The continental markets are very quiet, and the progress of the plantations generally satisfactory, except in Bohemia, where an increase of vermin has been noticed. New York letters, to the 20th ult., report an inanimate market. Advice from nearly all the hop sections are satisfactory. Mid and East Kent, 4l. 6s., 5l. 5s., to 6l. 6s.; Weald of Kent, 3l. 15s., 4l. 8s., to 5l. 5s.; Sussex, 3l. 10s., 4l., to 4l. 8s.; Farnham and country, 5l., 6l., to 6l. 6s.; Yearlinga, 3l., 3l. 10s., to 4l. The import of foreign hops into London last week was confined to two bales from Bremen.

PROVISIONS, Monday, July 6.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,504 firkins butter, and 2,118 bales bacon; and from foreign ports, 21,075 casks, &c., butter, and 1,689 bales bacon. The transactions in the butter market were improved, in consequence of the continued dry weather, and best Dutch suddenly advanced to 112s. on Friday; Normandy and Jerseys 4s. to 6s. dearer; and in Irish butter there was more business done; fine Clonmel sold at 106s. on board. The bacon market ruled firm. Best Waterford sold at 76s. free on board.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, July 6.—These markets are now tolerably well supplied with new potatoes. On the whole the demand has been steady at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 252 boxes from Cherbourg, 4,720 baskets from Rotterdam, 837 boxes from Barreux, 4 bags from Dunkirk, 173 cases, 31 packages, 18 baskets from Boulogne, 100 tons Havra, and 60 boxes Madura. English 6s. to 7s., French 4s. 6d. to 6s., Lisbon 4s. to 6s.

SEED, Monday, July 6.—There was not much passing in any description of cloverseed, and prices of all sorts were nominally the same as last week. Trefoil was steady in value, with little demand. New Trifolium was inquired for, and good French samples would command fair prices. Mustard seed was unchanged in price. New rapeseed is looked for, but fine qualities are held too high for general buyers. Seedmen gave 61s. per qr. for small quantities. Maize sold rather better, some of the imports going direct to the distillers.

OIL, Monday, July 6.—For linseed oil there has been a steady sale. Rape oil has moved off freely, at very full currencies. The value of olive has been nominally advanced 4l. to 8l. per ton from the lowest point, owing to the reported damage to the crops. Coconut is steady, but palm has been neglected. Petroleum has been quiet. Turpentine has been in moderate request, and the quotations have ruled firm.

WOOL, Monday, July 6.—The demand for English wool has continued dull, and holders have somewhat forced sales in order to realise. Prices have still had a downward tendency. There is very little inquiry for export.

TALLOW, Monday, July 6.—There is about an average business doing in this market. P.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 43s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow 41s. 8d. per cwt. net cash.

COAL, Monday, July 6.—Best coal steady at last day's rates. Wallsend Hettons 18s. 6d., South Hettons 18s., Haswell 18s. 6d., Braddys Hettons 17s., New Belmont 15s. 9d., Original Hartlepool 18s. 6d., Hartlepool 17s. 3d., East Hartlepool 17s. 6d., Kelloe 16s., South Kelloe 17s. 3d., Trimdon Thornley 15s. 6d., Holywell Main 14s. 6d., Wylam 14s. 6d., Hartleys 16s. Ships fresh arrived, 61; ships left from last day, 15; ships at sea, 5.

Advertisements.

REGISTRATION of ELECTORS.

THE FRIENDS of RELIGIOUS EQUALITY who are entitled to become COUNTY ELECTORS, are urged to SEND IN CLAIMS to the Overseers of their respective Parishes on or before the 20th of July.

Claimants under the new Occupation Franchise of £12 must, on or before the 20th July, pay all poor rates made on or before the 5th January.

Forms of Claims and other information may be obtained on application to the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION FROM STATE-PATRONAGE AND CONTROL, 2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street, London.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

COUNTY REGISTRATION, 1868.—Liberals

who are qualified for any county in England or Wales as Freeholders, Leaseholders, or Copyholders, but who are not registered, and those who, being registered, have changed their abode or qualification, may have forms filled up and forwarded to the Overseers free of charge by communicating with the undersigned. Those upon whom the franchise was conferred by the act of last session in respect of the occupation of lands or tenements at a rateable value of £12 and upwards need not send in claims, as the Overseers are bound to make out from the rate-book a list of all persons so qualified, and the Overseers are bound to publish such lists on the doors of churches and chapels in their respective parishes during the first fourteen days in August. Any Liberal so qualified whose name is omitted from such list by the Overseers should send in a claim to the Overseers on or before August the 25th.

THOMAS NICOLLS ROBERTS.

Secretary to the Liberal Registration Association,
5, Queen's-square, Westminster.

P.S.—The Claims of Freeholders, Leaseholders, and Copyholders must be delivered to the Overseers on or before July 20th.

E L T H A M, K E N T.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The OPENING SERVICES will be held on WEDNESDAY, July 15th, 1868, when the Rev. SAMUEL MARTIN (of Westminster) will preach in the Morning at Twelve o'clock, and the Rev. Dr. RALPHIGH (of Canonbury) in the Evening at Seven o'clock.

A Public Meeting will be held in the Afternoon, at which several ministers and friends who feel interested in this undertaking are expected to be present.

A cold collation will be provided.

Trains for Eltham leave Charing-cross Station at 10.2, 12.10, 2.10, and 3.40; Cannon-street, 12.20, 2.20, 3.50; London-bridge, 10.10, 12.23, 2.23, 3.53. From Eltham at 5.30, 6.26, 7.57, and 9.16.

On SUNDAY, July 18th, the Rev. J. MARSHALL, Minister of the Church, will preach in the morning, and the Rev. JOHN STOUTON, of Kensington, in the evening.

On SUNDAY, July 25th, the Rev. J. C. HARRISON, of Camden-town, will preach in the morning, and the Rev. J. MARSHALL in the evening.

THE GRAND BAZAAR in AID of the BUILDING FUND of the ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS, will be held in the NEW BUILDINGS, HORNSEY-RISE, under Royal and Distinguished Patronage, on SATURDAY, July 18th, 1868, and be continued on MONDAY, July 20th, and two following days.

Tickets may be obtained at the Office of the Charity, 55 Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Secretary.

Valuable contributions have been already received from the Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia, and other noble and distinguished ladies.

Also from friends of the Orphan in many of the principal cities and towns in England and abroad.

Ladies intending to send Goods will greatly oblige by doing so before the end of the present month, direct to Miss Soul, No. 11, Boxworth-grove, Islington, N., or to the Office, 55, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

CIVIL SERVICE of INDIA.—A Competitive Examination of Candidates will be held by the CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS in MARCH, 1869. The competition will be open to all natural born subjects of her Majesty who, on the 1st of March next, shall be over seventeen and under twenty-one years of age, and of good health and character.

CIVIL SERVICE of INDIA.—EXAMINATION of 1869. Copies of the Regulations (which differ in some respects from those issued in previous years) may be had on application to "The Secretary, Civil Service Commission, London, S.W."

MELODIUM "A COUP HARMONIQUE."—Engagement of Signor Calderassi, for his exquisite Performances, daily at quarter to 4 and half-past 7.—At the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

TO GROCERS and DRAPERS.—WANTED in the country, an experienced Young Man to assist in the General Trade, post books, &c. Member of a Christian Church preferred. State salary required, with references, &c.—E. and J. Morton, Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol.

A BAPTIST CHURCH in the COUNTY of DURHAM will require a pastor, after August next. Present salary £100 a year. Ministers disposed to correspond are requested to write to the Rev. W. Walters, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

TEA TRADE.—WANTED, an intelligent Youth as APPRENTICE (to reside with family).—Apply to Messrs. Dakin and Co., Norwich.

SITUATION WANTED by a respectable young person, to assist a mother with her children and household duties, or any similar engagement, where she would be treated as one of the family.—F. A., Post-office, Andover.

GOVERNESS.—A YOUNG LADY DE SIRESS a RE-ENGAGEMENT in a Christian Family after the Midsummer Vacation. Acquirements—thorough English, Music, Drawing, Mapping, and the rudiments of French. Salary, £25. Highest references given and required.—Stella, 468, Mile-end-road, London.

WANTED, by a Respectable, Industrious, Married Man, a Situation in any light capacity where trust and confidence are required. Knowledge of bookkeeping. Abstainer. Interview if wished. Willing to be useful.—W. B., 11, St. John-lane, Castle-street, Canterbury.

EDUCATION.—Ladies' School, conducted by the Misses SMITH. The course of study comprises English, French, German, Music, Drawing, &c. A young lady wishing to prepare for Teaching, can be received on moderate terms. Address, the Broadway, Upper Plaiestow, near London.

NURSERY GOVERNESS WANTED by a family going to New Zealand. Competent to teach English, Music and Singing. Six pupils, ages from four to eleven years. State Age, Salary, References.—Apply to E. Neal, Boston, Spa.

STONEGATE SCHOOL, near LEICESTER.—Mr. FRANKLIN receives Pupils at his long-established School. His boys have the advantage of homelike arrangements and care. The teaching is quite of the first class. Several Pupils each year pass the University local examinations. Reference may be made to the Hon. Justice Mellor, and to numbers of other gentlemen whose sons have been educated by Mr. Franklin. Terms Fifty and Sixty Guineas, according to age on entering.

MILL-HILL SCHOOL, HENDON, N.W. MIDDLESEX.

This School is 10 miles from London, and is now about a mile distant from Mill-hill Station of the Edgware Railway, King's Cross.

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